

Comment Polly Toynbee: Why Barnsley's brassed off



20-page sport section

Wales fall to the Wallabies



Sex, power and Beaverbrook

Plus: Behind Blair's smile

Now Algeria's bloody civil war kills the little people

When the history of Algeria's se- dying every week in Algeria's cret war comes to be written, the villages of Bensaleh, Bouarfa, Douret, Sliman Chaouch, Hamleli, Douaouda and Sidi el-Kebir will feature largely in its blood-

soaked pages.
For, despite government censorship and a far more sinister silence by the cruel men responsible for the dreadful deeds being done in the countryside are now emerging of the latest bloodbaths in the Algerian war, a conflict now being fought out between "Islamist" gunmen and poorly trained village militias who have been armed by the gov-

ernment as "self-defence" units. The statistics of death give credence to reports that up to

civil war.

A bomb hiddeo in a coffee flask that exploded in a polling statioo at Relisane during last week's referendum, for example, killed 15 civilians and wounded another 200, according to evewitnesses. An earlier car bomh in Boufarik killed 18 people. A hus bomh in Tixeraine killed 10, on 10 November. A massacre in Douaouda left 10 women and three children with their throats slashed. An even worse hutchery at Sidi el-Kebir on 6 November left 32 men, women and children dead, so many that the authorities could not provide enough coffins. This mass sla there are others which have oot

yet been revealed - occurred in

just the past seven weeks.



From Robert Fisk in Algiers

Up to 100,000 people are now helieved to have been killed since the military-backed Algerian government cancelled the 1992 parliamentary elections which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) - demanding an Is-lamic state in Algeria - were cer-tain to win. Violent Islamist organisations then went to war. attacking not only soldiers and policemen but their families, and writers, journalists, artists and feminists. Human rights groups have blamed pro-government death squads as well as

the Islamic Armed Group (GIA) for the appalling death toll. The new constitution voted in last week is unlikely to lessen the carnage.

In the most recent massacres, the GIA appears to have been taking revenge on those villages which have set up government-sponsored militias. Boufarik and Donaouda had created "auto-defence" units composed of local men shortly before the attacks. So had the villages south of Laghonat when a bus carrying civilians oo the road to

Hassi R'mel was stopped at a driver and the husband, leaving checkpoint by men dressed as the sick womao in the vehicle. policemen on 7 October. In a country where Islamists often dress in security-force uniforms, and policemen often wear plain lives back to Laghouat.

At Sidi el-Kebir, there was no clothes, the occupants of the bus might have guessed this was one of Algeria's nightmare "faux such escape. The village menfolk

at the fake checkpoint, ordered the passengers to dismount for an identity check and then, systematically, cut their throats. At one point, an ambulance carrying a sick woman and her husbaod, along with a paramedic, was stopped behind the bus. According to the Algerian newspaper Liberté - perbaps the only reliable journalistic source on the war - the GIA men cut the throats of the paramedic, the

barrages". The men, around 20

The slaughter went on for an hour while motorists, noticing the killers just in time, managed to turn their cars and drive for their

were appareotly in the hills above their homes, searching for the "terrorists" against whom the government had armed them. Behind them, up to 30 GIA members entered Sidi el-Kebir and proceeded, again systemat-ically, to kill all whom they found in the village. A baby reportedly had its throat cut after discussion among the killers about the morality of killing children. At least 10 women were egorgées. A newly married

home, the husband on the bed, the woman in the doorway of their bedroom after reportedly being ordered to lay out her wedding trousseau. Their haby

was left tied up in the same room. Exactly eight days later, in the village of Bensalagh - where 20 men had just been recruited to join the local government militia - the Islamists struck again. At least 14 civilians - including 5 women and 3 children - were murdered, most of them from one family. A 12-year-old boy in a state of deep shock later recalled how armed men had arrived at the home of his uncle, Medjber Abdelli, at 1.00am.

burst into the building, grabbed his aunt by her hair, pulled back her head and cut her throat with

family was shot dead while other men decapitated his wife. Three children then had their

throats cut, one of them a 12year-old girt, Hadjira Abdelli. When villagers approached the house in the morning, they found blood splashed over every room. and even across the garden.

These most recent of horrors have driven thousands of villagers into the towns around Algiers in fear of their lives. The refugees have complained that the authorities have done nothing to help them. One newspaper boldly pointed out that at the mass funeral of the Sidi el-Kebir victims, not a single representative of the government - save for the local wali - came

Major may go to the polls early

Anthony Bevins

A surprise snap election is expected by some ministers and senior MPs across the Commons as John Major faces the certain loss of his overall parliameotary majority in the

days' time.
While many politicians, and much of the media, have accepted I May as the fixed date cused of cowardice and will for the election, strong arguments are now being made for the Prime Minister to go to the country between the eod of February and mid-April.

Ulster Unionists are not happy with the "painful" prospect of a general election held on the same day as their local elections - which are cootested by proportional representation, and generally favour Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists.

But the Ulster Unionists argue that it will oot come to that They believe Mr Major will oot want to risk Commons defeat, or face accusations that he has made "sleazy deals" to help him stagger through to May, and that he will prefer to call the election at a time of his own

The date for the election could well hinge oo the result of Merseyside's Wirral South by-election, caused by the death of the Tory backbencher Barry Porter on 3 November.

The loss of that seat would drive Mr Major into a one-vote

been deprived of a majority

Parliamentary cooveotioo dictates that the writ for a byelection should be moved within three months of the vacancy, followed by a three-week campaign, suggesting a by-election

early February, they will be acopen the way for Labour to force a Commons vote on the issue.

The Merseyside seat would fall to Labour oo an anti-Tory swing of 8.2 per cent - and de-Critically, David Trimble's feat would put the Government in constant fear of a Commons amhush, and the humiliation of a successful censure motion that would force an immediate electioo.

But some senior Conservatives are arguing that if the par-ty were to win Wirral South, that could prove the spring-board the party oeeds for an early general election.

After Harold Wilsoo woo a surprise victory in the Hull North by-election on 27 January 1966, be west so to announce a March election oce a clear-cut majority.

Reflecting the confidence felt in the higher reaches of the Conservative Party, Michael Heseltine said yesterday that the country was heading for a record Christmas".

House prices were moving up. oegative equity was be-coming a thing of the past, un-

time the Tories would have employment was falling, and

retail sales were rising.
"All the classic indicators are that people know that things are oow much better, and that always leads to an improved political climate," the Deputy Prime Minister said.

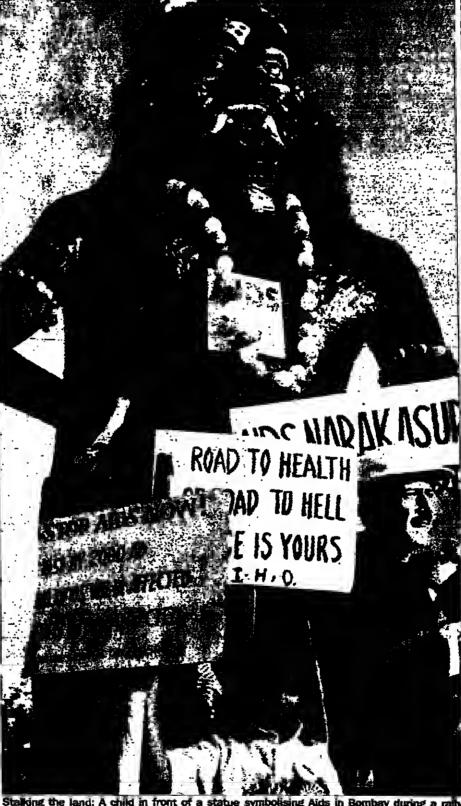
He told BBC television's On If the Conservatives do not move the Wirral South writ by still not in the lead, but there was "a drift of opinion - and you can see it happening".

The other argument for an early election is the difficulty now being faced by Mr Major with the loss of his overall

Labour's sure-fire victory in the Barnsley East by-election. on 12 December, and the loss of Mr Major's majority, will wipe out the Government's power to drive through essenial amendments to some of its own legislation - including the budgetary Finance Bill.

The rules of the House state that once the Government loses its overall majority, it cannot command a majority in any of the standing committees which give consideration to legislation. The Finance Bill would fall foul of that rule.

Mr Heseltine made it clear esterday that when the election does come, it will be fought with aggression. "You know that de-finioon of a politician," he said. "An American politician waits to see which way the crowd is running, rushes in front, and shouts, 'Follow me'. That's Tony



Stalking the land: A child in front of a statue symbolising Aids in Bombey during a rany like that to run this country."

Leading article, page 13

Stalking the land: A child in front of a statue symbolising Aids in Bombey during a rany like that to run this country."

Leading article, page 13

Abbey habits to cost home owners more

Nic Cicutti

Millions of homeowners face a hike in the cost of their loans as Ahbey National, the UK's secood-largest lender, today announced an increase of 0.25 per cent in its mortgage rate. The increase will add about

£7 a month to the typical cost of a £50,000 mortgage, Other lenders, including the Halifax and the Woolwich, may follow

suit within days. Yesterday Abbey National said its move was caused by the need to deliver better rates to its 12 million savers, who outcomber its borrowers by seven

Charles Toner, deputy chief en demand in a still-fragile housing market.

"The changes to mortgage rates will have little impact on demand, given that we are now seeing real improvements in the market. The increase will mean only £1.65 a week to the average repayment borrower. We

expect to cootinue to offer a

wide range of fixed-rate mortgages for the increasing oumber of customers seeking security in the run-up to the [geoeral]

New Abbey National borrowers will pay the higher rate immediately, while existing ones will see their mortgages risc from 18 December. Its tiered rates mean borrowers with loans of up to £60,000 pay 7.29 per cent, dropping to 7.19 per cent for loans above £100,000.

The company's move seems set to hring to an end a 12-month period in which mortgage interest rates have been at the lowest in 30 years. It follows attempts by the Chancellor. Kenneth Clarke, to convince the his 1p cut in the basic tax rate.
his Budget remained fiscally

responsible. However, some economists believe the latest house-price increases are one of several factors likely to help fuel a speoding boom, potentially leading to higher inflation. Business, page 18

A code of conduct

With newspapers still facing a strong mood of public scepticism and bostility to Press intrusion, we are today publishing the Press Complaints Commission code of conduct to which The Independent and Express, like other newspapers, are

signatories. (See page 6.)
Many readers may be unaware of the code, at least in detail, and therefore unable to judge our actions against it. We reaffirm our commitment to its rules and to its spirit and promise readers that any rulings made by the PCC against us will be prominently reported on our news pages.

Andrew Marr. The Indepe Richard Addis, The Express



A £25m art gift to the nation ... with strings attached

David Lister

One of the richest art bequests of the century has been promised to the nation - but with the unprecedented condition that it will be withdrawn if the government of the day reneges on its funding promises. Paintings will also be imme-

diately removed from any museum or gallery that decides to charge the public for admission. Sir Denis Mahon, 86, the art historian, former trustee of the National Gallery and tireless campaigner for the arts will an-

nounce today that he is to bequeath 61 works from his collection of Italian baroque nasterpieces to the National 'Art Collections Fund. They are stimated to be worth £25m. But Sir Denis, a member of

erameot and indeed future governmeots by declaring that he will withdraw his bequest if, in his view, the Government should at any time "fall short of fulfilling its various commitments in support of public collecting through the UK for the benefit

of the nation in perpetuity". It is the first time an art bequest of this magnitude has come accompanied by such a stringent political condition. The 17thcentury Italian masterpieces in-clude Guercino's Elijah Fed By Ravens, Ludovico Carracci's Agony In The Garden, and Guido Reni's Rape of Europa. Unusually, Sir Denis has en-

sured that legal ownership of the paintings will remain with the National Art Collections Fund and he has asked that the fund,

the Guinness Mahon banking an independent charity, should family, will embarrass the Govattonic withdraw any works at once withdraw any works deposited if the gallery or museum concerned should decide to sell off any item from its permanent collection.

He is also stipulating that his paintings should be withdrawn from any gallery or museum that decides to charge admission, an option being widely considered by many institutions.

placed with the National Gallery, 12 with the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, six with the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge, five with Birmingham Museum and Arts Gallery, three with the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, ooe with Temple Newsam House in Leeds and eight with the National Gallery of Scotland. The bequest also gives the

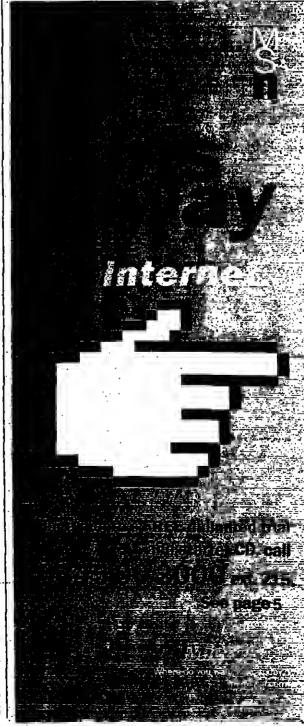
Naoonal Gallery discretion to

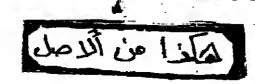
al Museum and Gallery of Wales in Cardiff. Nooe at present charges for admission, but all have been affected by falling government resources.

Sir Denis said: "I feel passionately that the Government must not persist in its policy of progressively cutting grant in aid to museums and galleries. The figures for 1997-98 (announced last week] represent a significant cut in the value of central goverament funding for our national art collection and what is most alarming is the downward trend which is set to continue in subsequeot years.

"I am a firm believer in the principle of partnership be-tween the public and private sectors, but the principle becomes meaningless if it is not respected by the Government."

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significant shorts

Chunnel drill paves way for reopening

An emergency drill held in the Channel tunnel yesterday was a complete success according to its operators Eurotunnel and the company is hoping for a resumption of ruil services this week. A Eurotunnel spokesman. John Noulton, said the

exercise had gone "satisfactorily".
All of the 700 "passengers"
were evacuated within two hours and 10 minutes of a simulated accident - five minutes longer than Eurotunnel's target of 125 minutes hut within the period

that could be considered successful, a spokesman said. The tunnel safety authority is expected to meet this week to decide whether or not to approve the re-opening of the tunnel damaged by fire two weeks ago.

Police fear for missing girl

Police are appealing for help in tracing a schoolgirl who disappeared after visiting a friend. Sarah Ayley, 15, from Downham Market. Norfolk. was last seen leaving her friend's house at 5.10pm on Saturday for the half-mile walk bome.

Police said they were becoming increasingly worried for her safety.

Sarah is described as white. off 5in tall with shoulderlength fair hair. She was wearing a black padded jacket and mauve tracksuit

Castle may quit over

pensions 'farce' The Labour veteran
Baroness Castle yesterday
threatened to resign from the

threatened to resign from the party's pensions policy review body. Arguing that October's conference had been a hoodwinked by the promise of a review, she told the BBC's Breakfast With Prost programme that "I shall not indefinitely go on lending muself to a farce". myself to a farce". Lady Castle, who sat in the last Wilson Cabinet, wants Labour to reinstate its

of the link between pensions and earnings.
But Harriet Harmari, the party's frontbench spokeswoman, said yesterday that Labour's pensions policy was passed by conference. Anthony Bevins

commitment to a restoration

Three scoop £3m on lottery

Three people shared Saturday's delayed lottery jackpot of £9,641,466. Each won £3,213,822 in a draw which was held up for nearly an bour after a power fault. The winning numbers were 4 5, 12, 25 26 and 49, with bonus ball 48.

Bekova Sisters

Tonight's recital by the Bekova Sisters in aid of the North London Hospice is at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London tonight at 7.45pm, not in Edinburgh as stated in The Eye stated on Saturday.

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essues of the Independent are available from:

cause of death is natural causes, the average age at death is 46, indicating the homeless are

The decrease in life expectancy is thought to be due to the rising number of young homeless people oo the streets is commonly thought. Alcohol plus difficulties in accessing the health care they need. Nearly 60 and a half of rough sleepers per ceot of rough sleepers had compared with one in four of

Meningitis claims second student

Hundreds of students were being given vaccinations yesterday after a 19-year-old phar-macy undergraduate became the second person to die in an outbreak of meningitis at the University of Wales in Cardiff. She died in the intensive

care unit of Cardiff's University Hospital early yesterday morning after being taken ill on Friday evening in the same student hall of residence where other cases of the illness bave occurred.

A university spokesman said that relatives of the latest victim were still being informed of the tragedy last night.

A programme of inoculations for any to \$200 other

tious for up to 800 other

24 hours as fears rose of further cases. On Thursday, a 19-year-old woman law student living in the same student block, University Hall, died within hours of being taken ill. Three other students living at Uni-versity Hall have the disease and are being treated at the hospi-

Doctors said yesterday that two were making "good progress" on an isolation ward while the other, a 20-year-old male student, remains in intensive care, "seriously ill but

Experts in communicable diseases believe the five students, who were not part of a close circle of friends, were affected by a "Group C"

meningococcal strain of the disease which can kill within not increase the possibility of further infections. "All that

Meningitis cannot be passed on through normal social contact but weekend parties and discos were cancelled and the students' bar closed as a precaution against spreading infection. Students living at University Hall have already been given a course of antibi-otics but will now be vaccinated to give them further

takes 10 days before becoming fully effective.
Dr Bill Smith, director of public health for the Bro Taf Authority, said it was essential students remained on site to be

should be done is being done. I hope that we have seen the worst of this," he said. The university is anxious that around 100 students who went away for the weekend to visit parents or

friends are contacted and vac-

cinated.

Professor Brian Smith, the miversity vice chancellor, said: Nothing is of more importance to the university than the safe-ty and well-being of its students. protection. Vaccination gives longer-term protection against meningitis although the jab Our hearts go out to the parents." He paid tribute to the maturity and calmness of students at the residence and of their parents.

Medical experts are stressing that friends, family and ac-

THEATRE

CLOSED

special risk and do not need antibiotics. Initial investigations suggest that the infection thay

be focused on a particular part of the residence. Student welfare officers and counsellors from the Meningitis Trust charity spent yesterday helping undergraduates who were stunned by the latest death. Dot Hodge, president of the Students' Union, said: "It has been traumatic. Most students of this age are just not accustomed to dealing with this sort of grief. Our priority is to do everything we can to help them cope with this".

Leanna Jones, 19, an accountancy student, said she felt much safer after the antibi-

quaintances of those living at otics course. "I was frightened University Hall are not at any at first because I didn't know what to do. But now I have had medication and have been told about the dangers I feel far hap-

pier" she said. An emergency hotline, with ten extensions, was set up by the Students' Union. Student wardens also made regular checks on the health of residents at University Hall in case of any further signs of illness.

☐ The number of suspected cases in the outbreak of food poisoning caused by the E-coli 0157 bacteria, which has so far claimed five lives in central Scotland, continues to rise, with 209 people showing symptoms and 67 victims being treated in hospital, including 17 who were giving "cause for concern".

Young vagrants dying for a home

Glenda Cooper

Homeless people are dying on the streets at the age of 42 - five years younger than they were in 1992 and more than 30 years before the average population.

According to research by the bomeless charity, Crisis, life expectancy is continuing to fall despite the number of people sleeping rough on any one night dropping by two-thirds over the same period. Nationally, life expectancy is 76.

The report, Still Dying For a Home, examined the London Coroner's Court records for the year up to the end of Angust 1996. In total, 74 deaths of rough sleepers were recorded the same number as when similar research was undertaken in 1992. The real figure could be

Rough sleepers are four times more likely to die from unnatural causes such as accidents, alcohol, drugs, assault and suicide than the general population. They are also more than 50 times more likely to die from general assault and 35 times as likely to commit

Although the most commoo dying well before their time.

at least one health problem, the general population. Drug-

compared with 24 per cent of related problems were said the general population. The to be on the increase, with 20 most common cooditions are respiratory illnesses, arthritis, epilepsy, skin complaints and and solvents.

Alcohol abuse formed part of the problem but not as much as found and damaging effect on is commonly thought. Alcohol mental health. The high inciabuse affects between a third widely reported.

per cent of young homeless people misusing cannabis, amphetamines, cocaine, opiates identified as having a serious

Homelessness has dence of serious mental illnesses, such as schizophrenia, depression and anniety, has been

In 1996, the Office of National Statistics found-that about 60 per cent of night-shelter and day-centre users were

Rough and deadly: Life expectancy among the homeless is now 42, more than 30 years less than the general population

mental health problem. Crisis yesterday launched its national network of 27 emergency "Winterwatch" centres which have been shown to save lives. While there were slightly. more deaths among the home-

less in the winter months, the

tially higher than the general to be done. .. population. Someone dies on the streets

every five days in Loodoo alone," said Crisis' chief executive Mark Scothern. They die well before their time in discomfort and without dignity. This cannot be allowed

proportion was oot substan- But so much more still needs

"In the long term, it means putting an end to rough sleeping. In the shorter term, the research indicates that we must target services to getting people off the streets quickly and to help those with multiple

problems. to continue.

The winter shelters that opened yesterday save lives.

Still Dying For a Home is available from Crisis, price £8.00.

Tel: 0171-377 0489.

Dublin poll blames London for Ulster peace deadlock

David McKittrick Ireland correspondent

The British government is, in the eyes of southern Irish opin-ion, lagging far behind in its bat-tle with Sinn Fein for the moral high ground, according to an opinion poll.

The poll, reported in the Dublin Sunday Independent, found 11 per cent of respondents blamed Sinn Fein for what was described as the stalemate io the peace process, while 50 per cent hlamed the British government. A further 15 per cent blamed Unionists.

The result, which is broadly in line with the findings of a poll of a year ago, will provide little cheer for a government which has been trying to convince opinion at bome and abroad that Sinn Fein and the IRA are at fault. The poll provides evidence that, notwithstanding the IRA's sporadic bombing attacks, Irish nationalists disapprove of the Government's andling of the peace process. A further gap in perception, il-lustrating how far apart the various camps are, was demonstrated at the weekend conference of the Democratic Unionist party.



John Hume (left) and George Mitchell

Its leader, the Rev Ian Paisley, attacked John Major, saying be was preparing to surrender to terrorists: "His word is not his determined bond. It is rather his disposable baggage. Mr Major is in the sur-rendering business to the IRA and its bedfellows John Hume, Dublin and the White House.

Mr Hume, leader of the SDLP, said an unequivocal IRA cessation of violence was still possible, adding that he would seek an early meeting with Mr



"quite constructive" meeting with the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, last week, and wishes to discuss it with the Prime Minister. He added in a BBC interview

with Sir David Frost: "My experience tells me that there is a major opportunity to bring about a complete end to vio-lence." He said that if minds were applied to it, there could be a ceasefire by Christmas. Yesterday the Northern Ire-

land political development min-ister, Michael Ancram, would not be drawn on bow long any new IRA cessation would have to be before ministers concluded it was genuine. "The time taken to make that judgment must depend not only on the words but on the actions, so it could be very short or it could be rather long."

A spokesman for George
Mitchell, the American politi-

cian who chairs the Stormont political talks, yesterday denied allegations that one of his staff had been in contact with The reports had alleged links

between the former senator's chief of staff, Martha Pope, and the senior Belfast republican Gerry Keily. A spokesman said: "The allegation is absolutely and totally false. Ms Pope has nev-er met Mr Kelly."

■ Several RUC officers were injured at the weekend in clashes with loyalists as they protected Catholic churchgoers in Ballymena, Co Antrim. A gang of around 500 loyalist protested against Catholics attending Mass in the town. Missiles and at least one petrol bomb were thrown at police,

SFO question Lord Tryon in tax fraud inquiry

The Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has questioned Lord iyon, a close friend of the Prince of Wales, as part of an international tax fraud investigation being co-ordinated by Norwegian authorities.

He is one of a number of merchant bankers, including Lord Kindersley, a former chairman of Brent Walker, quizzed by the SFO in recent months on behalf of the Norwegian authorities. A spokesman for the SFO said yesterday: "The SFO has provided assistance to the Noiwegian au-thorities in connection with a ma-

ior tax fraud. "In connection with the investigation, a number of people have been interviewed under Section 2 of the 1987 Criminal Justice Act and a number of search warrants have been ex-

ecuted," the spokesman added. He declined to reveal the identity of the individuals questioned. But sources said that Lord Tryon and Lord Kindersley were among those inter-viewed under the SFO's special powers which deny interviewees the right to silence.

weekend as saying he had been interviewed only as a witness.

"There is absolutely no question of wrongdoing by me," be said. Lady Dale Thyon, his wife, is also a friend of the Prince's. Last. May she fractured ber skull and broke her back when she fell out. of a window at a clinic. Reports claimed she had been pushed but Surrey Police concluded there were no suspicious circum-stances surrounding the case.

The SFO is involved in the British side of an investigation by the Norwegian authorities into the fortune of Anders Jahre, a Norwegian shipping magnate who died in 1982. They believe he had transferred large sums of his money offshore to evade tax.

Much of that forume was anaged by Lazards, a London merchant bank, where Lord Tryon and Lord Kindersley were directors and involved in runn the offshore company which controlled Mr Jahre's fortune. The shipping magnate's estate is pursuing legal action against Lazards and Lord Kindersley. Lord Kindersley could not be

reached for comment vesterday.

Treasury chief admits Tories have put up tax

Anthony Bevins Political Editor

Government vulnerability on tax was exposed yesterday when Michael Heseltine was contra-dicted by a Treasury colleague who admitted an increase in the

burden of direct taxes. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was asked on the LWT Jonathan Dimbleby programme whether o was true - as Labour said -

a year for the average family since the 1992 election. since the 1992 election.

Mr Waldegrave said: "I think that's broadly right. You have to, I think, include National Insurance contributions because we had to put them up in, I think it need 1994."

it was, 1994."
Interviewed separately on BBC's On the Record programme Mr Heseltine repeat-edly denied the same charge.

John Hampbrys told him

that according to figures sup-plied by the Commons library, using Treasury data, the average family was £50 worse off in income tax and National Insurterms of direct taxation than it

was at the last election.

Mr Heseltine replied that this was "not the case" and Mr Humphrys was giving a "false But the Commons library

figures showed, in fact, that a

couple with two children and

one breadwinner on average

ance contributions in 1997-98 than in 1992-93. The Treasury estimates that the direct tax burden has risen from 20.2 per cent of income for the same family in 1992-93 to 20.7 per cent in 1997-98 - the same level as in

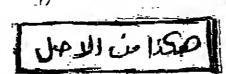
1991-92, pre-election year. The facts also dispute the Prime Minister's assertion to the

had "kept direct tax down". Gordon Brown, the shadow Chancellor, said last night. "The Tory tax bombshell has explod-ed today as William Waldegrave has admitted that the Tories

have not been telling the truth
... This explodes John Major's
claim that direct tax is falling." Nick Harvey, the Liberal Democrats' campaign chairman, last night challenged Mr Brown and Labour to vote against the

Chancellor's proposed penny cut in the standard rate of income tax in the Commons tomorrow night - saying the money would be better spent on education.

"In six months' time," he said "the Labour Party may well form a government. If the Labour Party votes in favour of tax cuts on Tuesday night, that government will find the Treasury cupboard bare when it attempts to invest in public services.



Shepherds watch their flocks by night as rustlers lie in wait

Stephen Goodwin

It wasn't a night to turn a dog out. The horizontal sleet turned to snow as we drove higher up the moor and it seemed hardly likely there would he any rustlers out either.

Tony Flintoft disagreed. Peering into the murk through the windscreen of an ageing Range Rover, the farmer grumbled at how the snow and mist provided good cover. With a sheep fetching up to £80 on the black market, "the buggers'll be out

Sheep rustling is an expensive ern England and the Scottish Borders. But a small group on on the North York moors believe they have checked the rustlers in the national park by

nightly "Sheep Watch" patrols. More than 3,000 sheep were stolen off the moors in 1995. But so far this year, according to only 208 have been taken. "People know we're about and it's gone a lot quieter - for now." Sheep Watch two years ago after losing 133 from his tall farm at Smilesworth.

He is getting reports from the Yorkshire Dales and the Bor-

ders of a corresponding in-crease in rustling there. North Yorkshire police statistics seem to bear out this shift in tactics. Their records show 1.800 sheep worth £77,000 stolen this year with the biggest round-ups in

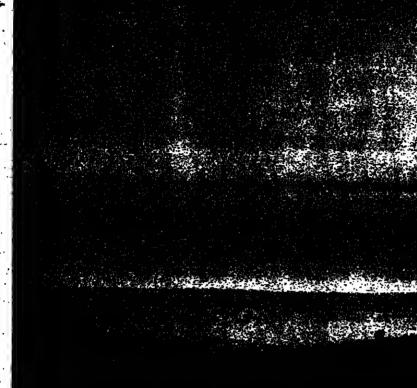
The "mad cow" crisis sent sheep prices soating. Quality animals which fetched £50 at anction a year ago are now going for around £100.

The loss to the farmer of a young breeding ewe is potenreplacements may wander. There are no fences or walls on menace to the livelihoods of the heather moorland but the farmers across the fells of north- black-faced sheep have a generational instinct for their

"heft" - or home ground.

They are rustled in small vans and cars. Ten could be crammed in the back of a Ford Escort van or three or four hobbled - legs tied together - and put in a car boot. "There are no animal welfare considerations' data collected by Sheep Watch, in this game," Mr Flintoft said.

Quality breeding animals could be sold on at an auction well away from the moors. said Mr Flintoft, who started Coloured tyes can be washed out of the fleeces and tags removed. And once sold at auction, the aggrieved farmer has no legal claim on a sheep even



tially three times as much. And On edge: Sheep graze as darkness falls on Snilesworth Moor, North Yorkshire (above), as Pauline and Tony Flinthoft prepare to go on anti-rustler patrol

The police say there is no obvious "sheep trail". But most of the animals are probably slaughtered on unlicensed oremises and a lot will end up on plates in restaurants.

The rustlers, though, know the unmarked tracks of the moors as well as the patrollers. If anyone is caught in the act, they may be known to one of the eight watchers who have a shepherd's intimate knowledge of

the tops and valleys. Using five vehicles in radio contact, the group monitors the lonely moorland crossings, logging numbers and watching for vehicles "not sitting right". Suspicions are reported to the police. "We're not vigilantes," nsisted Mr Flintoft.

Union's Mutual Insurance company has figures showing that rustling - of pigs and cattle as well as sheep - costs UK farmers £3.5m, but it suspects the

true figure is much higher. Sheep Watch says moor-men have traditionally been loath to report thefts, believing it reflects badly on their shepherding skills. When Mr Flintoft and Brian Cook, who had had 40 sheep taken from his Bilsdale farm, set up the group there was a good

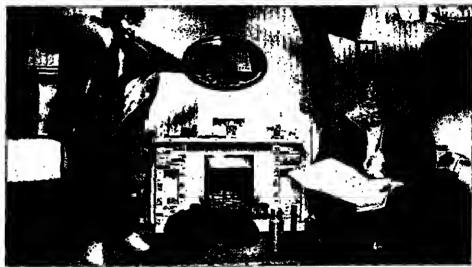
deal of densive comment. "Rustling has been going on for donkey's years and farmers have put up with sheep going in ones and twos," Mr Cook said. "But when £2,000 worth goes at a stroke it's a lot of money and have the figures tally."

The National Farmers I thought it was time we did nion's Mutual Insurance com- something about it."

· Parked up at 2am in Hutton-le-Hole with the sleet battering his 4x4, Norman Tinsley of Farndale would rather be at home but believes his business is at stake. He has lost nearly 200 sheep over three years. "Do I come out for maybe

four hours three or four nights a week and reduce the risk of theft by 60 or 70 percent, or do I go to bed thinking. Are the buggers about again tonight'?" .: Last week Mr Tinsley had his

answer. Gathering in his flock, be cast an eye over the 600 ewes were all there. "It is marvellous to gather sheep for once and the











Cash deals that put sporting stars in a league of their own

John McKie

Sponsorship and the satellite revolution have brought a spiralling increase in the earnings of Britain's top sports-

men a new survey suggests.

Not surprisingly, footballers, golfers and boxers dominate the list of 50 best-paid performers. in the country, compiled by Total Span magazine and based on income over the past year. Three-times US Masters champion Nick Faldo sits comfortably on top with £8m, Formula One world champion Damon Hill finishing second on £7m.

The poll reflects the millions poured into sport by Rupert Murdoch's Sky Television and reveals a much higher earnings average than the last survey, produced in 1993 by Business dec. Then, cricketer David Gower - on around £250,000 hefore his retirement - made the Top 50. This time, he

wouldn't get a look in, with Liv-erpool and England centre for-ward Robbie Powler propping up the table with an estimated £474,500.

petitive play, plus sponsorship and marketing deals qualified the nation's sporting favourites to join the elite. Notable ab-sentees include tennis player Tim Henman, athletes Roger Black and Sally Gunnell, jock-ey Pat Eddery, England crick-et captain Mike Atherton and former England riigby captain Will Carling. Only one woman,

The growing presence of footballers in the Top 50 (29 now, as opposed to 14 in 1993)

Money earned from comproves that satellite television's domination of the game is highly lucrative for all concerned. But sponsorship deals also rattle up the pound signs in a big way. Danny Kelly, the editor of Total Sport, said: "These people are bigger than pop stars and film stars in the advertising market. Whether you are talking about training about training about training these are one or the said. shoes or cup cakes, sports

Nick Faldo (Golf) £8m.

2. Damon, Hith (Formula One notor racing) £7m. Frank Bruno (Boxing) £5.5m. Lennox Lewis (Boxing) £4.5m. Namem Hamed (Boding) £4m. 10. Ste Eddle Irvine (Formula One £2.1m.

Top 10 cash hits motor rading) £2.8m.
7. Colin McRae (Rallying) and Colin Montgomerie (Golf) £2.5m. 9. Paul Gascoigne (Football)

£2.2m. 10. Stepten Hendry (Snooker)

the golfer Laura Davies, makes the list - in 17th spot. stars are highly marketable. "Nick Faldn has been earnming money like that for years. He has been the name people want to get on their golf clubs, their golf balls and their golf buggies.

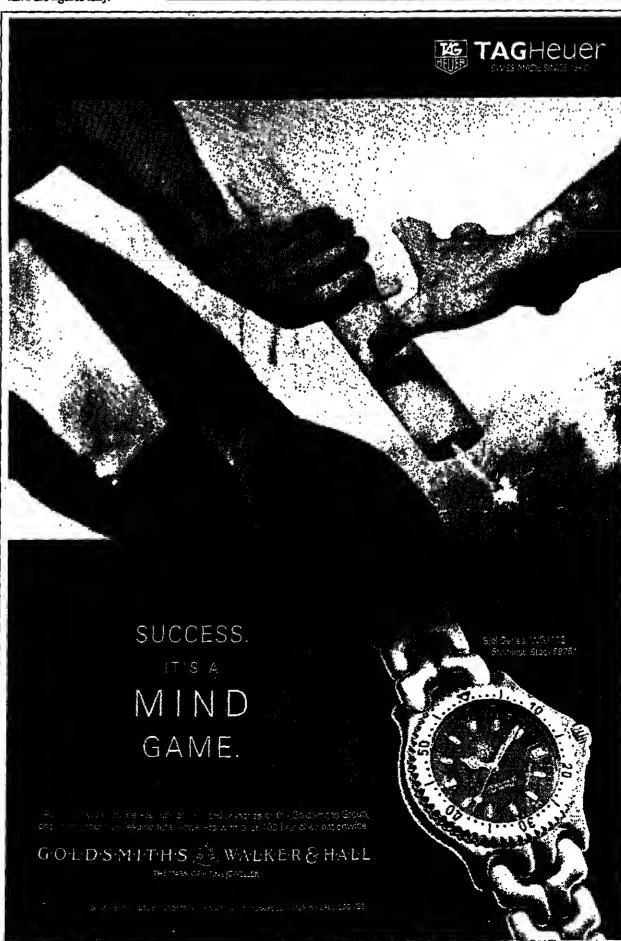
Of the £8m, we calculated only about £800,000 came from American tour earnings." But Britain's best still languish

a long way behind their American counterparts. Boxer Lemox Lewis, who has seen his 1993 best of £10.5m dip to £4.5m, can only dream of the £26m ring rival Mike Tyson collected in 1995. Not one homespun star is found in the world Top 50 of sports earnings.

And just to prove that success is no guarantee of a bulging bank balance, rower Steve Redgrave and his partner Matthew Pinsent - Britain's only gold medallists at the Atlanta



Olympics - come nowhere near making a splash in the money





Athlete Sally Gamell



Greenpeace to turn up the heat on oilfields

As Shell and BP prepare to syphen crude fuel from two seabed sites, environmentalists refocus on threat of climate change

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent**

Greenpeace is to campaign against the development of Britain's most important new offshore oilfields. The environmental pressure group is keeping its options open for the seaborne direct-action tactics which are its hallmark.

The Foinaven and Schiehallion fields, in the Atlantic, west of the Shetland Isles, are the reat hope for the future of Britain's oil productioo industry with reserves worth hillions of pounds. Exploiting the two fields would secure hundreds of jobs and hring in hundreds of millions of pounds in tax

But Greenpeace says the oil should be left undisturbed below the seabed to reduce the threat of man-made climate change. Whenever fossil fuels such as oil are burnt they produce carbon dioxide, which traps solar heat in the atmosphere, giving rise to the socalled "greenhouse effect".

It will be the first time Greenpeace has tried to stop an oilfield development on climate protection grounds.

This should not come as a the executive director of Greenpeace UK. "At some point we are going to have to draw a line

Lord Melchett, a junior min-ister in the last Labour government, has written to the Prime Minister, John Major, to say that the production of oil on the "Atlantic frontier" west of Shetland was incompatible with Britain's declared aim of tackling the global warming threat. There is a very serious con-tradiction at the heart of your

Government," he wrote. "At international meetings you lead calls for action ... at home, in Britain's backyard, you encourage the exploitation of fossil fuel reserves."

But Mr Major's four page reply said there was no case for banning fossil fuels, and that the area west of Shetland "is being opened up for exploration in an environmentally sensitive

Greenpeace is not satisfied with this, and intends to keep putting pressure oo the Government and the oil companies operating west of Shetland. BP has the largest interest, followed by Greenpeace's old Brent Spar adversary, Shell.

We never rule out direct action. If we're going to survive as humans on this planet we have to protect the climate from drastic, destructive change,' said surprise," said Peter Melchett. Lord Melchett. Greenpeace wants the hig oil companies to invest in non-polluting, renewable energy sources like solar power instead of fossil fuels.

> A huge tanker-like vessel, called a floating production system, is then anchored above the well-heads, and kept pointing into the wind and waves. The crude oil is carried up to it through hoses which are linked to a swivelling turret. The oil is stored on board and unloaded directly into visiting tankers. BP hopes to start production at the Foinaven field in the next few

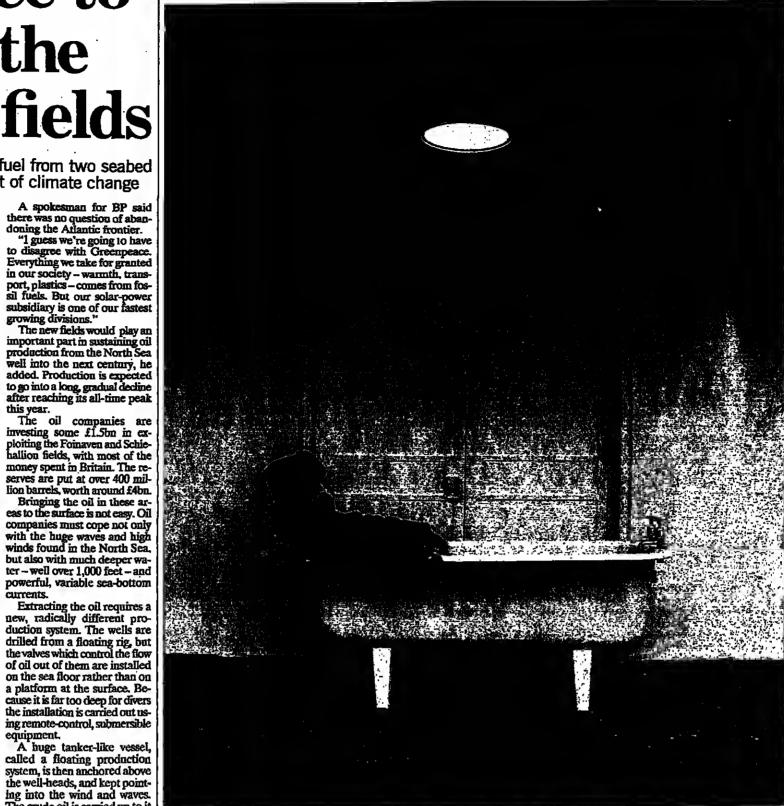
subsidiary is one of our fastes:

important part in sustain

The new fields would play an

Bringing the oil in these ar-

Artist does dry run to keep pool wet



In the swim: Tom Geoghegan starting his campaign to save Hornsey Road Baths

Clare Garner

For most people, bath-time is a treat. But for Tom Geoghegan it is nearer a nightmare because,

from this morning, he will be lying in an open-air bath all day and all night for a week.

Togged in thick thermals and a Cossack hat, he will be sitting ont his "time-based performance", entitled "bath time", to boarded up since 1991.

Hornsey Road Baths is in Islington, the London borough which, Mr Geoghegan said was originally called "yseldon". ("ysel" meaning "water") and described in the 12th century as

a "place of fountains of water ... streaming forth among the glistering pebbles". The iron

bath in which Mr Geoghegan

will lie is one of the original slip-

a new vision for the site. "Un-

less immediate action is taken. the pools will be demolished and the land sold off for com-

mercial development, depriving

the community of a desperate

ly needed public space facility."

. Hornsey Road Baths were

per-baths. It will be empty, like the pool inside. And the seven days and seven nights are to symbolise the Creation. Passers-by will be invited to sign a giant, permanent petition Road Baths building and donate money to an architectural com-

to raise £15,000 for the com-

Photograph: Mykel Nicolaou

built in 1892, with four pools, a public laundry and slipper baths. The men's first-class pool was bombed in 1941 and the site redeveloped in the Sixties. Mr Geoghegan, 35, first swam there when he was six months old. "My nickname was The Fist because I lived in the water. I used to live at Hornsey Baths It used to be a real fun place.

Now it's just a big empty bath." While he is not surrounding himself with quality bath-time accessories - there's no champagne, Badedas or loofah in sight - he has, however, allowed mself one bath toy: a phone.

Anyone can call the artist at work on: 0171 281 5148.

Dublin's sleaze scandal grows

Alan Murdoch

Ireland is bracing itself for revelations of more political sleaze in the wake of the resignation of the transport minister who received £208,000 for modemisation work on his constituency house from a supermarket firm.

Michael Lowry, 42, quit on Saturday night after a meeting with the Prime Minister, John Bruton, over the payments. Dunnes Stores, Ireland's second-largest supermarket chain, funded the modernisation of his Tipperary home in 1992 when Mr Lowry was chairman of the Fine Gael party, then in opposition. Mr Bruton said he had accepted the resignation "with regret." Mr Lowry's departure was essential if the two-year-old coalition between the centreright Fine Gael, Labour and Democratic Left parties was not to be destabilised. Both smaller parties indicated privately that Mr Lowry's position was untenable if the claims were

On Saturday, The Irish Independent reproduced one of the cheques in the transaction, in which £76,674 was paid to a building firm. Dunnes own accounts described the payment as for repairs to a Duhlin shopping centre owned by the chain. An architect's note showed it in fact referred to "alterations and additions" to the Lowry home at Holycross in Tipperary.

The final cheque was signed personally by Ben Dunne, the then chairman of the supermarket group.Mr Lowry's company, Streamline Enterprises, had provided refrigeration services to Dunnes since 1979. An unusual arrangement meant Mr Lowry's firm supplied equipment at cost price and had its accounting carried out by the store's group. It is believed the Lowry home deal may have formed part of a larger loan-finance arrangement repald in different ways.

The existence of the deal emerged during an investigation by accountants Price Waterhouse into Mr Dunne's running of the group, ordered by his sister, Margaret Heffernan after she ousted him as head of the group in 1993. In Lowry said he was satisfied that he "had behaved with integrity and honour at all times." But he gave no further explanation of why Dunnes paid for the building work. He said the arrangements with Dunnes were and are entirely legitimate. As part of these arrangemade available by Dunnes from time to time, to be repaid from

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CHRISTMAS

Litigation fears as pupils sue schools

Judith Judd Education Editor

Teachers yesterday deplored a "worrying" American-style tendency for dissatisfied pupils to resort to litigation, after two teenagers said they were suing their schools for educating them hadly.

The cases, which could open the floodgates to dozens of similar actions, follow an outof-court settlement last month in which a 20-year-old accepted £30,000 damages after claiming compensation for hullying at school.

However, head teachers be-lieve it will be very difficult for the pupils, who say their education was so poor that they failed to get the GCSE grades they deserved, to prove their case. Teachers are also concerned that schools will have to spend money which is needed for pupils education on insuring themselves against legal

Both cases have been made possible hecause of govern-ment policy which requires inspectors to say when schools are failing. Both schools are among 200 declared failing by the Office for Standards in Ed-

The two ex-pupils have begun legal proceedings on the basis of inspectors' reports. They are a 17-year-old girl who left school two years ago with no GCSEs and a 17-year-old boy who got unexpectedly poor grades. Both say they were expected to do better.

They are now on GCSE courses at sixth-form colleges and are suing for the cost of retaking their exams and loss of earnings because they could not go straight into jobs.

David Hart, general secre-tary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said he thought the chance of a suc-

against a failing school was remote. There were so many factors other than the quality of teaching that caused pupils to fail to achieve GCSE grades: motivation, family circumstances and the role of parents.

A research study by Professor Peter Mortimore and Sally Thomas from London University's Institute of Education showed that schools make a difference to GCSE performance. The amount is relatively small hut it could be as much as the difference between seven Bs and seven Ds.

But Professor Mortimore said: "Research has quite a lot to say about what happens at school level, but at an indi-vidual level I think it would be extraordinary difficult to allocate responsibility for GCSE performance."

Lawyers involved in the two cases believe that those pupils with most chance of success will be those who retake qualifications. Jack Rabinowicz told BBC Radio 4's The World This Weekend:"Here we are talking about pupils who should have done better and where the school has been labelled a failure. If you have a car where the brakes fail there are victims, similarly, if you have a school which fails its pupils, there are victims."

He said the pupils were un-dergoing tests from educational psychologists to try to demonstrate that they should have done better.

Doug McAvoy, general sec-retary of the National Union of Teachers, said many factors affecting schools performance - what they taught and the money they were given - were beyond their control. "It is a very worrying development it could have a devastating effect, particularly on schools' fi-nances."



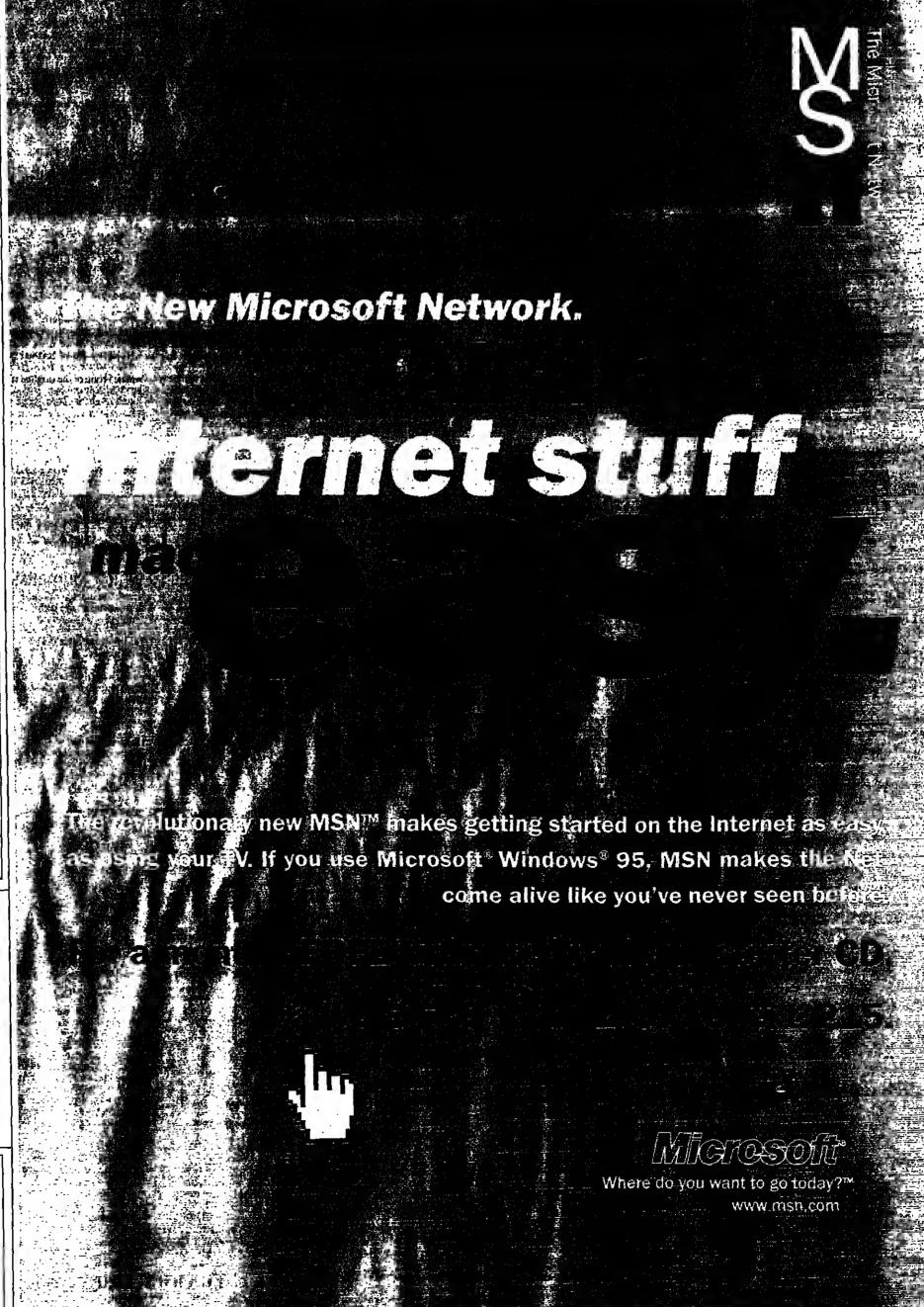
Searching for the word: Andrew Fisher (facing camers) and Terry Kirk locked in combat during yesterday's grand final Photograph: Herbie Knott

Red-letter day for new Scrabble champion

Andrew Fisher, was unsure the word "buvette" existed when he placed the seven tiles on the hoard in vesterday's final of the National Scrabble

But the 74-point word -meaning refreshment har nltimately scaled victory. an.: the 31-year-old accountant from Glastonbury, Some emerged from the three-day event at the Forte Crest Hotel in Regent's Park. central London, as the 25th national champion, Runnerup was Terry Kirk. 34. u inancial data editor, of Finchley, north London.

Between them, they saw off the challenge of 68 other competitors who won through to the final stages, including a crossword compiler, a television game show producer, students, civil servants and teachers. The youngest was just 14 years old.



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DAILY POEM

Winter Haiku

Translated by James Kirkup

The voice of the heart expressing itself only in panting white breath

Koko Kato

A smile that faded away just like an ice floe slowing to a stop

Kato Shuson

The graves of soldiers – even in death, in the cold, falling into line

Yamazaki Hisao

One man digging deep graves in winter, and singing softly to himself

Arima Akito

Even in the begging bowl the hailstones Santoka Taneda

Each of the five seasons in Japan (the fifth is New Year) has its own special list of "season world", writes James Kirkup. Without one of these words, the haiku is not considered to be

The names of the seasons themselves can be used, but the best haiku avoid such obvious reference in favour of the sub-tle suggestion conveyed by something more arcane, a noun preferably without a diluting adjective.

Seasonal festivals are also acceptable, and now include many from ahroad. Christmas is a great favourite with haiku poets in this virtually non-Christian land, so "balloon" is a winter season word, because it is associated with Christmas parties.







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Notebook Computers

news

Racism row resurfaces at Ford

Barrie Clement Labour Editor

Lorry drivers' leaders at Ford's Dagenham plant are planning to protect an allegedly racist re-cruitment system this week by switching their union allegiance.

Representatives of truck fleet employees - the highest paid and most powerful group of hlue-collar workers at Ford have become increasingly angry with the Transport and General Workers' Union over the ordismantle a controversial se-

lection procedure. Activists have held confidential talks with the United Road Transport Union (URTU) which they believe will take a softer line than the left-led T&G. Previous attempts to switch all 300 workers en masse into the engineering union and the GMB general union were rebuffed

It is understood that forry drivers' representatives are today planning to dissolve their T&G branch and report back to their ganisatinn's legal battle in memhers tomorrow with plans

At the heart of the dispute is a recruitment system which has meant that less than 2 per cent of the 300 lorry drivers based at Dagenham are from ethnic minorities compared with a proportion of between 40 and 45 per cent elsewhere at the Essex

The T&G has taken the comny to an industrial tribunal on alf of seven hlack workers who have been refused jobs. The adjourned cases resume

The procedures place much of the power of selection with

senior employees in the truck fleet with minimal input from more senior managi While lorry drivers' shop

stewards argue that the arrange-ments for testing aptitude are fair, the procedures have meant that jobs are often passed down from father to son and gener-ally "kept within the family". Members of ethnic minorities have found it extremely difficult to secure the much sought-af-

ter £30,000 a year jobs - the highest wages earned by manual staff at Ford.

a good equal opportunities record elsewhere, Ford bas been reluctant to change the selection system for the truck fleet in case the drivers walked out. A strike by the drivers, who deliver parts all over westeru Europe, would bring Ford's production lines to a halt

within days. Some officials at the transport workers' union believe the ap-plication to the rival union has been with the connivance of management, although the company declined to comment

secretary of the T&G, insisted that his union had no quarrel with the drivers' themselves. They have been caught up in carrying out Ford's policies which plainly discriminate against black people," Mr Morris said. 198 12 12 May 1 12 3

Clare Garne.

He argued that Ford should introduce a proper equal op-portunities policy - "They must stop putting production before principles" – and said he would be seeking a meeting with Ford and with leaders of the rival



Mrs Pepys puts her side of the story

Marianne Macdonald Arts Correspondent

Elizabeth Pepys has remained a shadowy figure since the cel-ebrated 17th-century diary of her husband Samuel was published. Now, 327 years after Mrs Pepys's death, the public will at last be able to read her own journal.

They will learn how it felt when her husband fell in love with their maid, how she coped with prosperity heyood her dreams and how she bore the sadness of not having children. Sara George's fictional ac-

count of Elizabeth's life was sold last week to Anne Williams, the publisher of Headline. "The character of Elizabeth Pepys is very warm and sympathetic and I think it will ring bells for people today." Ms Williams said.

The took wire the portrait and sympathetic and separate the first of a marriage, she said. "Pepys gresses, and I found it quite that administration of a marriage, she said. "Pepys gresses, and I found it quite that administration of a marriage, she said. "Pepys gresses, and I found it quite that the latter, his eyesight began to the 17th-century fever prompting that the latter is instructed. Latter, his eyesight began to the 17th-century fever prompting that the latter is instructed. In the beginning it she will be a struggle. But a bly unfounded – fear of going Daniel Defoe's Moll Flanders.

The book is the inspiration of rows with his wife, the banquets with him somewhere, or had a Ms George, an award-winning crime writer. She says The Jourmeals and the women whom he lusted after.

nal of Elizabeth Pepys will be closely modelled on Samuel ··· But Ms George will use lit-Pepys's diary, which begins in. erary licence to recreate the 1660 and tells what it was like conversations had by husband to live through the Great Plague and wife, and the emotions felt by Elizabeth on discovering and Fire of London. Pepys was also a voracious ber husband's betrayal with theatre-goer, and the diary, their maid.

which the naval administrator

payment for stories or information should not be

made directly or through

current criminal proceedings

except where the material

overriding need to make or

Journalists must take every

possible step to ensure that

no financial dealings have

influence on the evidence that

promise to make a payment

concerned ought to be

published in the public interest and there is an

for this to be done.

potential witnesses in

which constituted their daily fight with him or looked very

Pepys married her when she was 15, which was uncharacteristic of him because he was always out for the main chance. To marry a girl without prospects who was so young means it must have been a love match.

"One of the themes of the di-"The book will be the portrait ary is how their marriage pro-

although they are very prosperous and well established by the end, they have encountered all kinds of personal difficulties

which get worse and worse." One was their health. Elizabeth was plagued by illness and had severe gynaecological problems. Her husband was almost certainly rendered sterile by surgery to remove a stooe from his bladder.

victim might be identified.

iii) The offence should he

iv) The child should not be

v) Care should be taken that

nothing in the report implies

the relationship between the

14. Victims of sexual assault

The press should not identify

victims of sexual assault or

publish material likely to

contribute to such identification unless there is

described as "serious

appropriate wording.

accused and the child.

identified.

offences against young

hlind that he gave up his diary

in May 1669, the year Elizabeth died of typhus. She was 29. Another personal difficulty was the increasing loneliness Elizabeth felt as their social status improved. "As they got richer and richer she got more and more isolated," Ms George explained.

The book, due to he published in 18 months, picks up on



Sara George: Her fictional account of the married life of Elizabeth Pepys (above left) will be 'warm and sympathetic'

Code that lays down the law for newspapers

The Press Complaints Commission sets out guidelines to which journalists should adhere. This is the list of rules

1. Accuracy i) Newspapers and periodicals should take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted

ü) Whenever it is recognised that a significant inaccuracy, misleading statement or distorted report has been published, it should be corrected promptly and with due prominence. iii) An apology should be published whenever

appropriate. iv) A newspaper or periodical should always report fairly and accurately the outcome of an action for defamation to which it has been a party.

2. Opportunity to reply A fair opportunity for reply to inaccuracies should be given to individuals or organisations when reasonably called for.

and fact Newspapers, whilst free to be partisan, should distinguish clearly between comment, conjecture and fact.

i) Intrusions and inquiries into an individual's private life without his or her consent, including the use of lnng-lens photography to take pictures of people on private property without their consent, are nnly acceptable when it can be shown that these are, or are reasonably

believed to be, in the public ii) Publication of material obtained under i) above is nuly justified when the facts show that the public interest

is served.

Note — Private property is defined as i) any private residence, together with its garden and outbuildings, but excluding any adjacent fields or purkland and the surrounding parts of the property within the unaided view of passers-by. 5) hotel bedrooms (but not other areas in a hotel) and iii) those parts of a hospital and musing home where patients are treated or accommodated.

Unless justified by public interest, journalists should

not ohtain or publish material obtained by using clandestine listening devices or by intercepting private telephone conversations.

6. Hospitals i) Journalists or photographers making inquiries at hospitals or similar institutions should identify themselves to a responsible executive and obtain permission hefore entering non-public areas. ii) The restrictions on intruding into privacy are particularly relevant to inquiries about individuals in hospitals or similar

7. Misrepresentation
i) Journalists should not generally obtain or seek to obtain information or pictures through misrepresentation or

subterfuge.

ii) Unless in the public interest, documents or photographs should be removed only with the express consent of the

iii) Subterfuge can he justified naly in the public interest and only when material cannot be obtained by any other

i) Journalists should neither nhtain nor seek to nbtain information or pictures though intimidation or n) Unless their inquiries are

in the public interest, journalists should not photograph individuals on private property (as defined in the note to Clause 4) without their consent: should nnt persist in telephoning nr questinning individuals after having been asked in desist: should nnt remain nn their property after having been asked to leave and should not iii) It is the responsibility of editors to ensure that these

requirements are carried out. Payment for articles

should be carried out and approaches made with sympathy or discretion.

11. Innocent relatives and friends Unless it is contrary to the public's right to know, the press should avoid identifying relatives or friends of persons convicted or accused of

12. Interviewing or photographing children
i) Journalists should not normally interview or



(An editor authorising such a payment must be prepared to demonstrate that there is a legitimate public interest at stake involving matters that the public has a right to know. The payment or, where accepted, the offer of payment to any witness who is actually cited to give evidence should be disclosed to the prosecution and the defence and the witness should be advised of this.) the age of 16 on subjects involving the personal welfare of the child or any other child, in the absence of or without the consent of a parent or other adult who is ponsible for the children. ii) Children should not be

ii) Payment, or offers nf payment for stories, pictures or information, should not be made directly or through agents to convicted or confessed criminals or to their associates - who may include family, friends and colleagues - except where the material concerned ought to be published in the public interest and the payment is necessary for this

10. Intrusion into grief or shock
In cases involving personal
grief or shock, inquiries

law, they are free to do so. 15. Discrimination i) The press should avoid prejudicial or pejorative . reference to a person's race, colour, religion, sex or sexual orientation or to any physical or mental illness or disability. **

ii) It should avoid publishing details of a person's race,

> 16. Financial journalism i) Even where the law does not prohibit it, journalists should not use for their own profit financial information they receive in advance of its general publication, nor should they pass such information to others. ii) They should not write about shares or securities in whose performance they know that they or their close families have a significant financial interest without

approached or photographed while at school without the permissinn of the school authorities. 13. Children in sex cases 1. The press should not, even where the law does not disclosing the interest to their editor or financial editor. prohibit it, identify children under the age of 16 who are iii) They should not buy or sell, either directly or through nominees or agents, shares or involved in cases concerned sexual offences, whether as securities about which they victims or as witnesses or have written recently or about defendants. which they intend to write in 2. In any press report of a case involving a sexual the near future.

offence against a child -17. Confidential sources i) The adult should not be Journalists have a moral: obligation to protect confidential sources of ii) The word incest should he avoided where a child information.-

18. The public interest Clauses 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9 create exceptions which may be covered by invoking the public interest. For the purpose of this Code that is most easily lefined as: i) Detecting or exposing : crime or a serious misdemeanour. ii) Protecting public health and safety.

ii) Preventing the public from being misted by some

statement or action of an

individual or organisation.

adequate justification and, by RRP £16.99 BOOKS dc. Price £1299 colour, religion, sex or sexual orientation unless these are directly relevant to the story. RRP £25.00 BOOKSet. Price £16.99 Range Quality Choice Value **BOOKS**etc

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Cargo ships set sail for a greener sea

Old techniques may help reduce pollution and give passengers a cruise with a difference

Clare Garner

An innovative British shipping company is planning to build a fleet of cargo vessels that will use sails to help the environment and attract cruise pas-

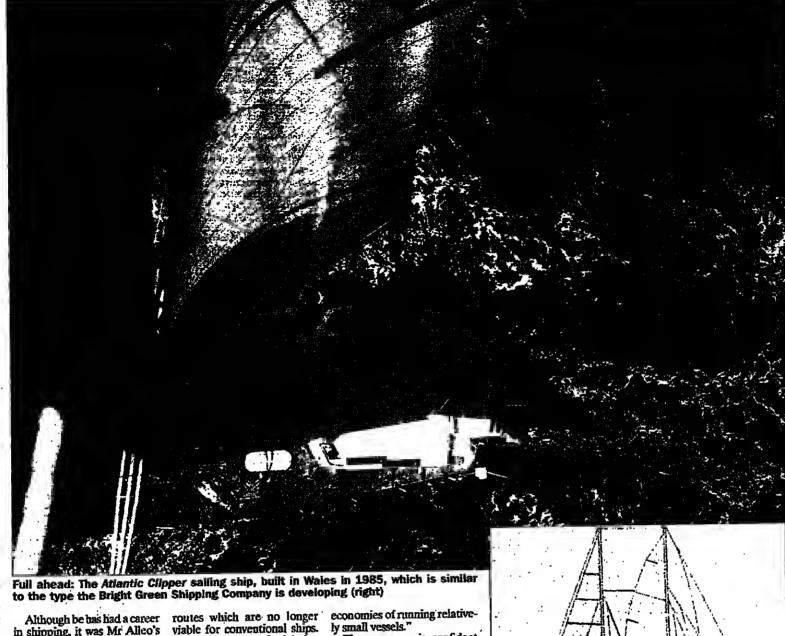
As well as carrying cargo such as fresb produce, and building and fishing materials, each of The Bright Green Shipping Company and produce and print of the Bright Green Shipping Company and print of the state of t ping Company's sail-assisted ships will also take 12 passen-gers for what it describes as "Habitat goes to sea"-style cruises. On board during the two-week trips there will be courses in Caribbean cooking. astronomy and navigation.

Initially, the company is building and operating two Green Ships between Canada and the Caribbean which will each bave the capacity of 18 articulated lorries, but plans are already afoot to link up with a company called Island Hotels in Australia to run a service betweeo there and the Solomon Islands. The company aims to operate in eight other identified markets within 10 years.

Jeff Allen, 47, is the brain behind the concept of sail-assisted ships, which he claims will not only reduce fuel requirement and therefore polluting emissions but also provide a "regular, faster, cheaper service".

"We have spent a considerable amount of time in Nova Scotia talking to exporters and already have commitments for over 140 per cent of our target

cargo capacity," he said.
The cost of transporting one tonne of freight from Maritime Canada to the Caribbean by air is \$2,000 (£1,250) and takes three days. The cost by company claims that it will transport freight the same. distance io nine days for US\$100. Furthermore, the modern soft sail technology, the Green Ships use of sail Green Ships are supposed to be increases stability, thereby more economically efficient lows for greater efficiencies allowing year-round operation. and therefore able to service and so drastically improves the



in shipping, it was Mr Alleo's love of ocean yacht racing that gave him inspiration. Conveotional shippers have increased the size of their ships in order to drive down prices, but these transhipmeot - by lorry and then boat from Mootreal - is \$165 and takes 19 days. The result small island communities. have become increasingly

> With streamlined hulls and modern soft sail technology, the

The ships are in the final design stages and should be up and running this time next year.

Captain Christopher Chamberlen, chairman of The Bright Green Shipping Company and former sailing master of the Royal Yacht, said: "I am a great fan of sail technology, oot be-cause it is romantic, although to be aboard a Green Ship under full sail will be an exhilarating experience, but because sail al-

ly small vessels."

The company is confident that its cruises will go down well. Cruise holidays generally are popular with Americans with over 40 million of them predicted to go on ooe in the oext

The company is currently negotiating with Atlantic Amhassatours, a large Canadian tour operator, which believes it can sell 65 per cent passenger occupancy in the first year and 78 per cent

Big firms cut back donations to Tories

Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent

Large companies are increasingly refusing to donate money to the Conservative Party but the shortfall is being made up by smaller firms whose donations are not so open to public

A survey of 5,000 large companies by Labour Research (LRD), a trade union-funded organisation, shows that only 133 of these companies gave to the Tories in the year ending 31 March 1996, compared with 194 in the previous year. The drop in cash from such companies -£2.82m to £2.55m - was compensated for by companies that remained loyal digging deeper into their pockets in anticipation of the general election.

The desertions ioclude a

number of well-known oames, such as United Biscuits, Rolls Royce, Wimpey. Smiths Industries and Barings, most of whom gave up soon after the 1992 election and have not returned to the fold. One big recent withdrawal is the builder JJ Galagher, which was the second highest donor traced in the 1995 survey, having given

While most companies refuse to give reasons for their withdrawal of support, Clare Ruhemann, editor of Labour Research magazine, said that some had stopped giving because of boardroom rows over political affiliations, and others cited specific reasons such as growing globalisation of the firm, which made it inappropriate to give to particular political party in one country. Ms Ruhemann said: "Few companies cite disenchantmeot

with Government policies, but clearly with such a large number of major firms no longer donating there is a growing reluctance to become associated with a party that looks like losing the election.

Racal and Vodafone, both chaired by Sir Ernest Harrison, are the only past donors to have returned to the fold, giving £75,000, and a third company he chairs, Chubb, became a firsttime donor with the same sum. The top donor was a Yorkshireproperty group, Paul Sykes, with £214,891, followed by Wittington Investments with £200,000, and £100,000 from Hanson, P&O and Trailfinders, which increased its donation from £1,000.

Analysis of Tory party funding by LRD shows that the party raised £18.82m in donations in 1995/96, its best showing ever in a oon-election year. LRD says: "This suggests its donations are coming from rich individuals and private companies, rather than from large companies." Smaller companies are thought to donate around £2.2m.

Company donations to the Labour Party uncovered by LRD are at a record high, having increased from £81,000 in 1994/95 to £268,096 last year, just over 10 per cent of the Tories' total. The largest donatioo came from Political-Animal Lobby with £125,000, and the other seven corporate donors includes Caparo Group with £47,000, GLC (financial services) with £30,000, and the media group Pearsoo, which matched its donation of £25,000 to the Tories.

☐ Labour Research: December 1996; £2.60; 78 Blackfriars Road, Londoo SE21 8HF.



Emu is ready for take-off – but will it

Most European Union gov-emments and financial markets now believe that the euro, the EU's planned single currency, will be launched on schedule in January 1999. Alongside this faith, however, exists considerable uncertainty about some of the project's most important

aspects.
Which countries will be in the euro, and which will remain outside, voluntarily or not? What rules on economic and financial discipline will participating countries bind themselves to observe in order to make the



Will the euro lock in dangerously high levels of unemploy-ment in those countries using it? To what extent will the euro lead so to a political union transcending national sovereignties?

Finally, are ordinary Europeans genuinely ready for the euro? A recent opinion poli in Germany, without whose participation the single currency is unthinkable, showed that only one in five people wanted the

Under the Maastricht treaty timetable, participating coun-tries will irrevocably fix their exchange rates in January 1999. The euro will gradually replace national currencies in the first

there were many doubts over the wisdom of sticking to this timetable. Much of Europe was stuck in the economic doldrums, and most EU states seemed likely to experience

difficulty in meeting the Maas-tricht criteria for joining monetary union. Hence a common opinion was that, if the euro went ahead on time, membership in the first instance would be restricted to Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, with Finland and Ireland fairly credible con-

tenders: Britain, Denmark, criteria in 1997, although it Greece and Sweden were grouped Italy with Britain and viewed as certain or almost Greece as the countries not certain not to join in 1999, and Italy, Portugal and Spain were seen as doubtful.

These predictions have come under assault in recent months, largely because the "Club Med" states — Italy, Portugal and Spain—have made desperate efforts to cut spending and raise revenues so that they can qualify for first-wave membership. The European Commission even suggested in early November that 12 countries would broadly meet the Maastricht

making the grade.

Such forecasts hold little appeal for Germany. Fearful of being manoeuvred into accepting a "soft euro". German officials have moved the argument away from the issue of which countries may fulfil the public-debt and budget-deficit criteria in 1997, and towards the more fundamental question of which countries are capable of surviving over the long term in a "hard-euro" zone.

The implication is that Italy,

and perhaps Portugal and Spain, will be kept out of the euro's founding group in 1999. However, they might be allowed to join the final phase of monetary union in 2002, or soon afterwards, if they show their recent

conversion to budgetary discipline is not a one-off wonder. Whether this will satisfy the Italians is another matter. The Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, has warned apocalyptically that the Italian state could collapse if Italy suffered the humiliation of not being a founder-member of the euro Two developments could still

disrupt the project. One is turb-ulence on financial markets, destroying exchange-rate stability among prospective single-currency members. The other is social unrest, in the form of strikes and public protests against the austerity measures being introduced across the EU to ensure the curb is

Yet most EU leaders are de-termined to go ahead. If nerves hold in France and Germany. the key players in the game; the euro will become a fact of life.

Tony Barber, Europe Editor

Casualties litter road to unity

Swelling dole queues, labour unrest, eroding living standards and rampant social insecurity are poised to usher in the age of the euro. Many Germans resent the abolition of the mark, but most accept the oew currency will arrive on schedule, and are now discovering more will be lost in transit than their most potent emblem of nationhood.

Because of the euro, those who bad looked forward to their imminent retirement will have to wait a few more years. The pension age was the only thing raised in the government's latest manoeuvres to shave a few decimal points off the budget deficit. Everything else is being cut.

The Maastricht treaty had decreed at German instigation - a 3 per cent ceiling on public borrowing, which Bonn bust last year, will bust this year, and is in danger of crashing through in 1997. To qualify for Emu, which half the country does not want, Germans are being asked to give up some of their recent heritage: a cosseting welfare system, outstanding public services, and social consensus. In sbort, the German model is being chipped away.

The first victim to fall under the euro-bandwagon was the programme to balve unemployment by the turn of the century, Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised that to the unious earlier this year. But then the numbers were added up and Mr Kohl discovered he had no money to create

jobs, short of scuppering Emu. So unemployment keeps climbing, high above the once intolerable level of 4 million, not counting another million who are on temporary makegrammes will be abolished from next a bit more off the dreaded deficit. In the east, where

one-third of adults have no real jobs but are offered self-respect through various "retaining projects", hun-dreds of thousands will find themselves redundant.

The dole is also being cut, as is sick pay. As the spending squeeze filters through to local authorities, services will have to be reduced, and libraries and schools shut, putting yet more people out of work.

Building works are being shelved. though the government has pledged to continue the reconstruction of the east. The Reichstag and the new government quarters will be ready by 1999, but how the rest of Berlin will cope with its bankrupt finances the city fathers cannot fathom.

Economists have calculated Mr Kohl still needs to find 10bn German marks (£4bn) in next year's budget to attain the Maastricht criteria. It is the same amount the coal industry receives in subsidies every year. The government has discovered this happy coincidence, and is rumoured to have developed a secret plan to cut this item from its expenditure. The resulting pit closures would rob tens of thousands of people of their livelihoods in the Ruhr.

Not all the effects of the scramhie towards monetary union have been negative. Exporters are gathering the windfall from a sliding mark. However, the government has not been able to trumpet this success. The mark is falling because it is being dumped by investors in the expectation that it will soon be work schemes. They are next in the firing line. Some job creation prowish to publicise.



is the race to meet the Maastricht criteria crucifying Europe's workforce? Even German workers, like Imre Karacs in Bonn these protesting about job losses in Bremerhaven, are finding the demands intolerable Photograph: Reuter cal transport, bave been bought off.

Charm fails as the mask slips

Until recently, the question of the single European currency was one of those (many) issues of national imor mose (many) issues of national supportance that are the preserve of the french political elite. The public held a generally benevolent feeling towards a single currency accepting it as part and parcel of being a good European. And, even when their lorry drivers are blocking EU commerce, the French consider them-

selves exemplary Europeans.
But there was no real discussion.
The fact that the euro will replace the franc, that a central European bank will dilute national economic sovereignty, that France's high labour costs will be shown up for what they are, were not mentioned.

The government also made great efforts to deflect responsibility from Brussels whenever "Europe" risked being blamed for unpopular measures, even when it meant ministers taking the flak. The reform of the expensive welfare system last year, which precipitated a month-long revolt by public-sector trade unions. was defended as necessary for national good housekeeping, not as a measure forced by the Maastricht

criteria for the single currency.

The government has taken the same approach this year. The public sector has been too scared about job security to protest in earnest. Lorry drivers notwithstanding, this is largely because government tactics during this year's budget discussion

have been far more sophisticated. There have been promises of taxcuts, the freeze on public-sector pay has been lifted (in principle only), restructuring plans (for railways and hanks) have been suspended as soon as real trouble was sighted, and oth-

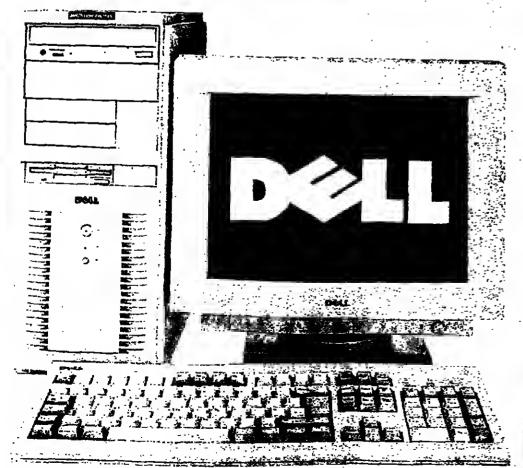
Many public spending cuts deemed necessary for sound housekeeping, or to meet the Maastricht criteria, have been deftly delegated. After defence, one of the areas hardest hit this year is local government -but this is described as "devolving" power to the regions. The result is that mayors are bearing the brunt of protests from ratepayers facing in-creases in local taxes. The government has also employed financial sleight of hand. It plans to transfer the France Telécom pension fund to government coffers to pay off half next year's domestic deficit.

The one issue the government has not been able to dissociate from Brussels in the public mind is deregulation, which instils great fear in trade unions and workers over "unfair" competition from low-paid workers from Britain, Spain and Por-tugal. The depth of this suspicion convinced the government it had to bring "Europe closer to the citizens" and mount a "charm campaign" for the single currency.

But, the more that people find out about the loss of the franc, "shared" economic sovereignty, and the likelihood that not only strong-currency countries like Germany, but Italy and Spain, could also join the single currency at the start, the more questions are raised. They have also discovered, thanks to a magazine article by the former president Valery Giscard d'Estaing, that even pro-Europeans have different views. In coming months, France could see a single-currency debate almost as divisive as the one in Britain.

Mary Dejevsky in Paris

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Search for salvation could damn a nation

For the longest time, at least as far back as Dante, European integration has meant just one thing to Italians: salvation. Salvation from their status as a joke country on the southern rim of the continent, salvation from nepotism and corruption in public life, salvation from an incestuous, conspiratorial brand of government.

But salvation, as this Catholic society is discovering, does not come without a passage through purgatory. For years Italy persuaded itself of the highminded ideals of European integration while ignoring the price it would have to pay. It treated Europe like a dream come true, merrily soaking up development funds and agricultural subsidies while ignoring production quotas, economic targets and commitments

to liberalise trading practices. Now, with a single currency around the corner, the crunch has come. All those decades of wanton public speoding, of Byzantine bureaucratic structures, of chronic political instability, of economic strength based on unaccountable family structures, are going to have to come to an abrupt end if Italy is to have a chance of making the A-team when monetary union gets off the ground on 1 Janu-

In one sense, the reform process began four years ago, wheo magistrates felled the eotire political order through recore. But that, it turns out, was

the easy part. The tough part has been paying for the profligacy the magistrates uncovered. Last year's prime minister, Lamberto Dini, made a start by reducing the budget deficit for the first time since the 1960s. But the bulk of the burden has fallen on the present government. which is trying to raise more than 60 trillion lire (£25bn) for

next year's budget.

Being a broad, unstable coalition, the team led by Prime Minister Romano Prodi has found it difficult to attack deep-rooted lobbies, and has opted for the simplest, most painful, option - a budget package based overwhelmingly on tax increases.

Italy already has one of the

highest income-tax thresholds in Europe - around 50 per cent, ers are going to be whacked with a one-off Euro-tax meant to cover a quarter of the budget package. Italians are famed tax evaders, so half the country will end up crippled by taxes while the other half will cootinue to

The new budget proposals have cast a pall of gloom over the country. When the centre-right opposition organised an anti-tax demonstration in Rome three weeks ago, more than half a million showed up.

If Italy is lucky, the pain will be temporary, the country will

stable political environment will evolve in conjunction with

new pan-European structures. That is the dream scenario. If Italy is unlncky, the budget won't do enough to clean up the public finances, tax increases will continue alongside cuts in pensions, the country will have to wait for admission to the single European currency and the

mood will turn truly ugly.

Deep social unrest, political turnoil - possibly including secession by the northern third dance of the Mafia; these are the nightmare scenarios. Italy will have to be careful that salvation through Europe does not



Dream sours after years of recession

Spaniards, understandably, want to have their cake and eat it. A survey this week found that almost two-thirds think than Spain should join the single currency by 1999 "hut only if this: does not demand important economic sacrifices".

P. . De.c. ..

The austerity measures which were imposed in pursuit of the 1999 deadline are already rebounding against the government. After only seven months in power it has falleo behind the Socialist opposition in popularity. But, desperate to herd Spaniards through the Eurogates in time, the conservative Popular Party reckons it can afford a stretch of unpopularity so early in its mandate.

Despite grumblings, the corset is being tightened without causing widespread revolt. The trade unions, cowed by unemployment of 22 per ceof and by proliferating short-term ("junk") labour contracts, are

protesting, but only feebly.

Most affected are the public sector workers, whose wages have been frozen. But a planned public sector strike on 11 December seems unlikely to shake the government. The coal miners have been more successful. Strikes two weeks ago against plans to remove the industry's bloated subsidies prompted the government to step back rather than face a showdown. But the "reconversioo" of this highcost energy producer has only

For millions of Spaniards the unemployed and those working in doomed state industries - the European dream so widely shared 10 years ago

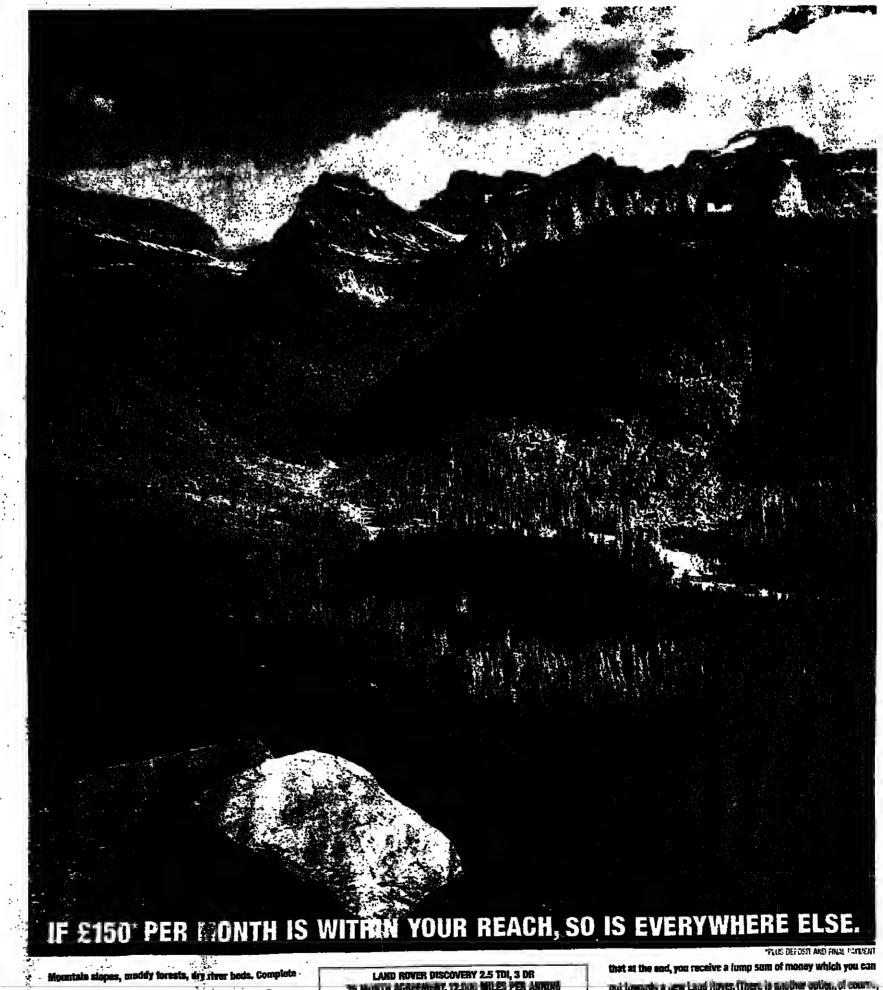
has soured. Spain's love affair with Europe was always pri-marily political rather than economic. Membership in 1986 set the seal upon the post-Franco democracy, ended decades of isolation and offered the ultimate guarantee that the

generals would never return. This explains Madrid's cagerness to chime in with the Enropean chorus, to swot hard and pass the exam. Spain makes up in commitment what it may lack in economic performance, but the emphoria has evaporated under the impact of one of Europe's longest and deepest recessions. Even now, with the economy picking up, con-sumption is stagnant and the

popular mood is sombre. Spain falls short on all the criteria for monetary union, although not drastically so. The key indicators are moving the right way and experts believe that it has a fighting chance of making it first time round.

Failure to meet the 1999 deadline would be a devastating blow for the government. When in a rash moment this spring, the new Finance Minister. Rodrigo Rato, talked of "stopping the clock" on monetary union, he was forced to eat his words before lunchtime. The public may have felt relieved. However, now that Spain's economy is so bound up with the rest of Europe, they would certainly be fearful of what might follow.

Elizabeth Nash in Madrid



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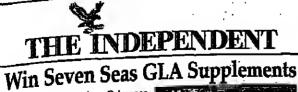
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The building of a nation

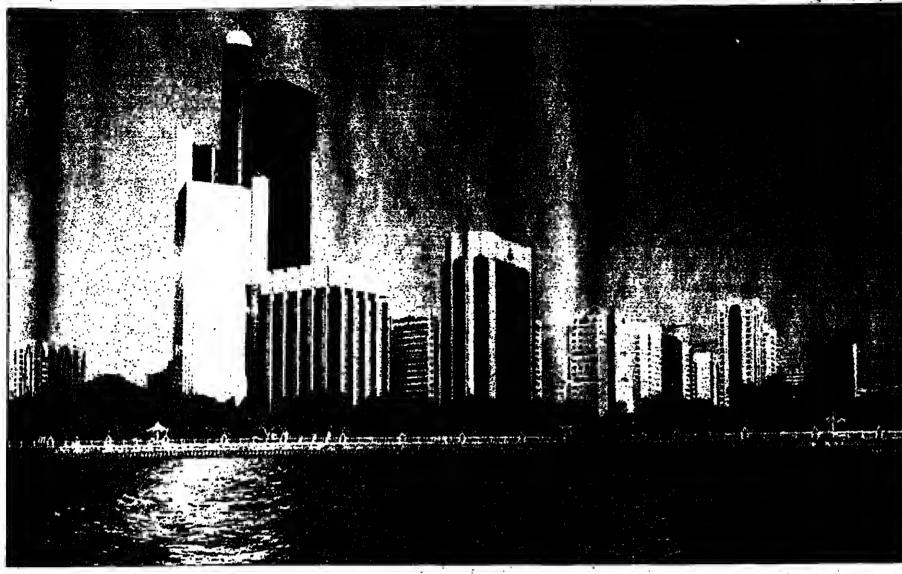
not sit up and take much cooce. It was the smallest of cogs in the global economy. The market for its pearls had disintegrated decades before. Lying on the southern shores of the Gulf, it depended largely on subsistence date farming and fishing. Infrastructure was a few schools and clinics, the oil industry an infant. Life was solitary; dhows, airstrips and Land Rover tracks made up its communications. It was also short, Life expectancy was in the mid-fifties.

It now helps to fuel world growth. its population - up from 180,000 in 1971 to 2.3 million today - enjoys one of the world's highest standards of living. Its gdp has grown from less than \$2 billion to reach almost \$40 billion last year. Six international airports, 15 seaports and a telephone for every three people have done away with isolation. Journeys on land that needed a day or more - plus a skilled driver, a sound constitution and a stronger truck - oow unroll on aleek highways in a couple of hours. Life expectancy has increased to 73, above the average of the developed countries of which it was once so obviously not

Seven emirates federated into the United Arab Emirates in 1971; Abu Dbabi, Dubai, Sbarjah, Ras al Khaimah, Umm al Qaiwain, Ajman and Fujairah. Across them, the physical changes are startling. A thousand companies operate from what was a waste of sea and scrub outside Dubai, whose container ports handle more traffie than Seattle or Tokyo. The salt and sand shoreline of Abu Dhabi city has become a promenade of palms and flowers, and behind it gleam steel and glass towers. Inland, in a country where further educatioo once meant studying abroad, the small desert settlement of Al Ain is changed into a thriving university city amid thousands of acres of new trees.

Oil, of course, has supplied much of the fuel for this expansioo. The UAE has the world's third largest proven reserves, enough to last for a century at current production levels. The non-oil sector, however, now makes up two thirds of gdp. Construction is a multi-billioo dollar industry. with manofacturing and distributioo growing apace. Positioned astride major shipping and air routes, with low taxes and excellent banking services and communications, the Emirates

In 1971, the United Arab Emirates was an unconsidered newcomer in the global economy. Today, as Richard Morgan explains, it has one of the highest standards of living in the world



Economics and the environment in perfect harmony: The UAE capital Abu Dhabi has developed into one of the most technologically advanced yet picturesque cities in the world

Soviet republics of central Asia.

Advance is measured in more than runways built and air conditioners grim reading when the federation was formed - in health, diet, housing. education - have been turned around. business and industry. All Emiratis now qualify for cradle to

Indian subcootinent to the former to 12 - is universal. Small mountain communities have schools. The young are all literate. The university at Al Ain is complemented by a chain of Higher installed. Social indicators that made Colleges of Technology where students acquire the skills - in avionics, accountancy, IT, telecoms - needed in modern

Illiteracy among adults, once over-

special literacy classes. Women are not excluded from national life. They make a majority of the

undergraduates at Al Ain and include : pilots and a quarter of government decision makers. Abu Dhabi had oo hospital at all until 1967. An immense of nationalism and a turbulent area,

stretching from East Africa and the with the high teacher-pupil ratio of one per cent, and continues to fall with infant mortality, a key indicator, fall Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser to the levels of the most advanced countries.

The federation itself is the first successful experiment in unification in the Arab world. It is an achievement; the early prospects, in an age oo deaf ears in Teheran. spending and investment has increased formation, indeed, the Iranians illehave become a focal point for a region grave welfare benefits. Education - whelming, has has been reduced to 15 half as fast again as gdp - has seen gally seized the three Gulf islands of 1966, and President of the UAE rarely seen in an oil state - the tourist

Tumbs. Recent Emirate appeals for fresh bilateral negotiations or impartial arbitration from the International Court of Justice bave woo international backing, but have fallen so far

Internationally, the young country Zayed, the Ruler of Abu Dhabi since

since its foundation. It contributed a military contingent to serve with the international UNISOM I and UNISOM II missions in war-wracked Somalia. Many wounded Bosnians were treated in Emirate hospitals at the height of Serbian ethnic cleansing. The Abu Dhabi Development Fund. set up 25 years ago at the direction of Sheikh Zayed, has supplied \$2.8 billion in overseas loans, aid and grants. A 1996 report of the International Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies shows that the Emirates ranks seventh among world donors. a remarkable performance by a small

Political stability, with continuity supplied by Sheikh Zayed, is based on old traditions of consensus and tradition. The Majlis, the council open to all where the individual can oice his opinions and complaints to his Sheikh, bas been retained to operate alongside modern federal institutions. The physical past is also preserved. A big archaelogical programme is extending knowledge of previous civilisations, which date back for six millennia. The recent past, the harsh and independent lives of pearl divers and Bedu nomads, is displayed in the old fort at Dubai. transformed into a spectacular

Oil has not been allowed to ruin the landscape; its energy is used in massive desalination plants to produce a flow of sweet water that is creating soft swathes of green. That the cities should have shade, and parks and gardens, confirms the steady attention paid to human as well as material progress; it is a pleasant by-product of wealth. The effort in the countryside is of a different scale. Forests, not seen since a brutal elimatic change 5,000 years ago, have arrived in the desert. New oases are fed by dams, and the piping of waste and desalinated water. A place long synonymous with barren waste supplies Covent Garden with strawberries, avocados, meions and fresh-cut flowers.

The water and the leaf canopies succour wildlife. Birds that paused for a few moments on their migrations, before flying oo to more hospitable territory, now make extended layovers. On the offshore island of Sir Bani Yas, Sheikh Zayed has planted millions of trees to create a wildlife sanctuary for threatened Arabian oryx and Sand gazelle. The national emblem is a effort in health - where government were not good. Four days before its has come fully of age under Sheikh falcon, not an oil well. It is that spirit which has attracted a bird of passage

Taming the desert wastelands Diversification is

be land has always had a however, now stretches much further the deserts, deep reds run into gravel greys, the sky catches the glimmer of the opaque sea near the coasts and the mountains of Fojairah tip steeply into the Indian Ocean. Apart from the sudden greeo of a oasis, however, it was undeniably arid. Trees and moisture remain precious - what the oak was to the ocean-going British, the date palm remains 10 the Emirati — but they are no longer rare.

A massive investment in plant, dams and piping has brought tree stands and flourishing desert farms. Using sea water and cheap energy from oil, the coastal desalioation plants now supply two thirds of the country's sweet water. Two new units that recently came on stream are among the biggest in the world, but further expansion is planned to cope with demand. A pilot project is exploring the use of solar energy in desalination. Dams have been built to prevent the water from sudden downpours from running uselessly into the sea. Satellite scanning is being used to locate desert aquifers, followed up by test drilling to make use of reserves deep in the limestone

in the mid-1940s, when Sheikh Zayed was the ruler's representative in Al Ain, he was well aware that a key task was the maintainance of the subterranean water channels, the falajes. Without them, the region would have become treeless and sterile. The lesson was well learnt. The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation considers the modern irrigation system to be a model, and presented Sheikh Zayed with an award last year in recognicion of it.

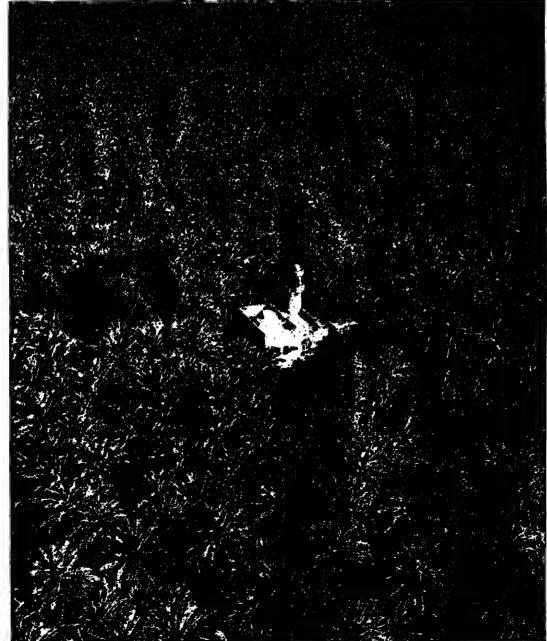
More than 130 million trees have been planted in Abu Dhabi alone, bringing micro-ctimates in which the temperature drops by several degrees. Among them are 25 million date palms: over generations, they provided beams for ceilings, woven screens for walls and the hulls of inshore fishing boats, and fibre for ropes and baskets, as well as food. Ironically, they suffered from an oversupply of water last spring, when prolonged rains washed away the polico needed for fertilisation. There are now enough of them to make the Emirates a major exporter of dates. Home-grown food,

feral beauty of its own. In than the dozens of recipes ingeniously devised to disguise the ubiquitous taste of the date.

New desert farms - there are now some 20,000 of them, mainly small family-run affairs - have turned the country from import-dependency in food to 90 per ceot self-sufficiency. The process is remarkable. Bulldozers roar over the desert in mechanical choreography to flatten sections of desert before the miles of irrigation pipes are laid. As the desert is rolled back, some quarter of a million acres have been gained for agriculture. A happy consequence of the new fields and leaf canopies is the abundance of birdlife, and the arrival of 'twitchers' from overseas who come to record it with binoculars and telephoto lenses. Over 400 species now visit once waterless terrain, and a quarter of them stay long enough to be known to

The cities are also benefit from water, of course; Al Ain, with its spreads of plantations and low rise buildings, prides itself oo being a garden city far from the sea. Ninetenths of the moisture needed for Abu Dbabi's score of public parks and gardens is waste water recycled through a treatment plant. To encourage individual gardens to soften the glare of concrete and steel buildings, city residents are given free plants and advice on acquiring green fingers. Sharjah has an awareness campaign - and fines - to prevent the gold that greens from being squandered, even though it has increased water production from a few buckets over a million gallons a day in 1971 to 50 million now.

However much this soothes the soul - splashes of colour warding off the hammer blows of the high summer sun - it is more than a cosmetic exercise. The greening of the land is helping to open up a new industry, tourism. It has slashed an import bill that would otherwise have been swollen by the increase in the number of mouths to feed. A world away from the rains and southwesterlies of the Channel Islands, herds of Jerseys chew their way through locally grown trucks ferry fresh vegetables from Ras-guavas - to Europe.



Spiritual oasis: A mosque nestles in the middle of the flourishing paim forest in Al Ain

al-Khaimah. The experimental farm on Sir Bani Yas island, which wildlife shares with apples, pears, pineapples, oranges and olives, has succeeded to alfafa and satisfy 90 per cent of the such purpose that market gardeners demand for dairy products. Cereals are on the mainland now supply these cities.

Social gains run hand in glove with economic ones. Agriculture provides jobs, directly and in support services, that are bringing prosperity to rural families and slowing the drift to the

cut in the great fields of Liwa and fruits — and strawberries, grapes.

One experimental farm, between with specialist medical help available, shipped from India to efficient ports, casily have rested on oil, strategic trucks ferry fresh vegetables from Rab guavas — to Europe.

Abu Dhabi and Al Ain, is special for fithe pride of earning their own living. To ther Emirates may also invest in Found in diversity.

its motivation is the development of people rather than crops. Sixteeo badly handicapped youngsters work its 30 acres, growing formatoes, chillies and aubergioes for market, and acquiring, in a stable community

key to the future

world total, oil remains the prime icals and plastics and other mover io the economy. Despite the comforting knowledge that they will last to the end of the next century at today's production levels, firm now fifth in the world rankings. Once emphasis is put on diversification scrubland and sea, a thousand compaaway from oil. Non-oil earnings nies have been attracted to it by fiscal doubled in the first half of the incentives which include 15 year decade. In energy, for example, the exemptions from personal and corpodevelopment of massive gas reserves rate taxes. 100 per cent repatriation will take precedence over the next of capital and profits and access via few years. Production from these fields will be carmarked as feedstock for new petrochemical plants.

and tourism are key to the drive to as General Motors, Aiwa, BP and strengthen the non-oil sector. The country benefits from excellent communications - advanced telecoms, for example, with Internet access, e-mail, teleconferencing. virtual private networks and every other all singing and dancing add-on centre for spare parts and maintenance of the IT age - and a strategic posi-

The lengthy coastline has 15 ports, two of them with direct access to the Indian Ocean in Fujairah, Jebel Ali in Dubai is the largest man-made deepwater harbour in the world, a behemoth with 67 berths on its miles of efforts to entrench itself as a regional quays. Trucking links north to Qatar, and to Saudi Arabia, are good. A rail network to link the Emirates to its neighbours has been mooted. There are six international airports; Dubai ranks in the world top ten. They support a rapidly growing sea-air cargo transfer busine

Construction is a massive industry: the value of commercial building in Abu Dhabi alone last year was put at \$3.1 billion. This year, an Italian construction company specialising in marble won a \$408 million contract 10 build the world's fourth largest mosque in the city. In metals, the Dubai Aluminium Company, is boosting capacity by half to capitalise on low energy charges to produce the power-hungry metal at well below average cost

Cheap gas makes a formidable

ith proven reserves of smelters. Maoufacturing in 100 billioo barrels, aluminium, food, beverages and equivalent to almost tobacco, and textiles, has had substan-10 per cent of the nal recent investment, as well as chemmon is

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Made Every Land

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downstream petroleum products. Free-trade zones host much of this activity. Jebel Ali, outside Dubai, is its strategically-placed port to the Indian subcontinent, a market of a billion people, as well as the Middle Expansion in services like banking. East region. Big multinationals such Heinz are among the companies operating from the zone.

A new free-zone at Dubai amport got a feather in its cap when it acquired Boeing as a client. The aircraft maker will operate a regional support from the zone, which is well positioned for servicing markets in East Africa and in the former Soviet republics of central Asia as well as the closer region. Oil production in Dubai is likely to fall at the end of the decade, and the Emirate is making vigorous trading, tourist and corporate centre. Good hotels, shopping mails and entertainment are being used to woo foreign companies to settle in the Emirate. They also attract tourists, and the government hopes to boost tourism t a fifth of gdp.

The same free-zone route to diversification is being adopted by Abu Dhabi. The government will plough around \$3 billion into a complex of buge storage facilities, a new port and airport, and commodities trading exchanges to be built on Sadiyal

A four-mile bridge will connec them to the mainland. An industrial park is to open at Tawilah to the east of the city. Competition is fierce, with Fujairah expanding its existing zone. Ajman will shortly start building the infrastructure necessary for a new 2006 combination with lost-cost bauxite of its own. In an economy that could

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Tourists flock to join the professionals

oil state may attract geologists, toolpushers, accountants, bankers tourists seems the most unlikely. This is, after all, a working country in whose slalom down a sand dune, a day out to explore the remote desert and trade statistics the sales of swimsuits at the camel races - but the essentials and suntan lotion play no visible are all there and in order. Daily flights part. Nevertheless, they are coming, from Europe connect with services suggests they like what they find. The connects Dubai with Melbourne, and numbers, while oot enough to spoil a there are flights three times a week caught fish and lobster can outdo it all. country the size of Portugal, reached well over two million last year. A third of them are Europeans.

found that the Emirates were worth invitations to visit, enjoyed themselves. and others followed. Some come to look at rare birds, others at coral reefs; on a seaplane. the ambition of others is limited to the beach, the disco and the shopping. Together, they make up a thriving new

High summer, between July and September, is ferociously humid and hot -- the mercury can reach 50 degrees Centigrade - and all the air conditioners in Arabia should not tempt the timid to come then. Through winter and spring, the skies are clear under a steady and amicable sun, and the seas are warm. Classic racehorses enjoy their winter training here; what tones up a Derby winner is surely good for the punter. The beaches stretch unbroken along hundreds of miles of coastline, desert and mountains are at hand, and the hotels have long won plaudits from travel-weary, seen-it-all

The United Arab Emirates has become an idyllic haven for holidaymakers

with a steady rise in arrivals that from North America. A new service direct to Houston and New York. The airports are modern, and the duty free shops at Abu Dhabi and Dubai have Word first got out when expatriates a well-earned and global reputation for keen prices and a huge range of visiting in themselves, rather than merchandise. The roads are excellent simply for the career prospects they and distances manageable, though offered. Friends and families took up those who do not wish to invest a couple of hours driving between Abu Dhabi and Dubai can take a loftier trip

> The country is well-hotelied. Its caravanserai range from five-star and deluxe big names - Inter-Continental, Sheraton, Hilton, Forte Grand through four-star to modest and comfortable rest houses. Many are on the beaches with watersports a lift ode from the rooms, and more are coming on stream. The Chicago Beach resort, being built partly on a man-made island with a bridge to the mainland, will include termis courts, a miniature centre as well as a private beliport for the well-heeled guest.

Telephone services are excellent. Multiple satellite TV channels cater for those who suffer from newsaddiction. Overnight desert safaris, sand-skiing on the high dunes of Liwa and sorties by dhow are easily What a visitor does is a matter for arranged. Four wheel drive vehicles him or her - a cruise in a dhow, a with experienced guides can be hired is Arabia.

mountains. Every cuisine on earth seems to be on offer - New York steaks, Mexican tacos, sushi, Arabian lamb. Lebanese starters, bangers and mash in Irish pubs - though locally-

Working off a good meal is no problem. The water-minded can stroll the old port at Ras al Khairnah, or sail. waterski and scuba dive. Further offshore, sailfish and marlin provide excellent game fishing. The gentler art of bird-watching thrives; so does the round of golf, and the spectator sport of watching its stars in tournament play. There are few better places for those who like to shop until they drop. The sougs are stacked with gold and silver jewellery, silks, Iranian carpets, cameras, carved wood and brass and scented with atomatic spices.

Two coasts are on offer and they are distinctive. The Gulf shores slope gently; in Fujairah, the mountains fall steeply into the Indian Ocean. The emirate plans to instal cable-cars so that the waterfall country of the rugged Al-Wurrayah region can be seen. Umm al-Qaiwain has plans for golf course, and a large conference a huge aqua park, and the first phase of the Dreamland project is under construction. It is, indeed, so brand spankingly new, that the visitor may ignore the fort-museums where the past is stored, the falconry, the wind towers of ancient houses and their studded doors, and the desert itself. The sun may be constant elsewhere, the sea as warm, but the sands are special. This



old sea-going skills, the arts of dhow-sailing are kept in racing

trim at regattas. ibai's winter sunshine has proved such a pick-me-up for bloodstock used to grey Newmarket days that Emirate-trained horses have woo the Derhy, Oaks, Irish Derby and the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

National

passion

for all

types

of sport

The winning ways of Emiratestrained and owned bloodstock

are well known to the world's

racegoers. More arcane.

perhaps, but equal evidence of

the national passion for sport. are world-championship

winning powerboat crews, and

ten pin bowling and junior chess

champions - and a programmuc

that has produced the world's

first racing camel to be born to

Abu Dhabi includes an invest-

meot in Maochester United

among its overseas holdings.

The Asian soccer championship

kicks off on Wednesday in the

Dhabi's Zayed Sports City.

The UAE will play South Korea in

the first game. The national side

was good enough to reach the

final stages of the World Cup in

Italy. Cricket has yet to reach

such heights, but the national XI

was the first side from the region

in horseracing. The country has

won the world offshore power-

boat championships two years

running. lo aoother reminder of

to play in a World Cup.

The top levels are reached at sea and

65,000 capacity stadium in Abu

In football, it is no coincidence that

a surrogate mother.

he Emirate's Nad al-Sheba track staged the World Cup last March. A global television audience of a billion watched the great American horse Cigar winning \$4 million in the racing

world's richest race. Sports facilities are superb; the coliseum-like Sports City is designed to pass muster as a full-fledged Olympic Village. The handicapped are particularly encourmaximum potential. The initiative is paying off; the UAE team clocked np 26 medals at the Special World Olympics beld in Atlaota over the summer.

illion dollar purses are on offer in golf and tennis tournaments. attracting top players so that spectators - from home and abroad - can see excellence in action. A \$1 million tournament held at a new tennis centre in Dubai is an annual fixture for ATP players.

There was oever a shortage of material for bunkers oo golf courses, but water has turned greens that were once oiled sand into the right colour, and has added a new fairway hazard trees. Prize money for the Dubai Desert Classic has been raised to \$1 million, enough to pull in ten of the 12 Ryder Cup players from Europe and the US earlier this year, as well as some of Asia's best golfers.

amels, first domesticated in the region, might look on a golf cart as unfair competitioo in the people-moving husiness, hut their welfare is looked after in style. Falcoury and winter camelracing, the traditional sports of a desert people, are in fine fettle. 25 strong fields are normal on the camel tracks, with groups classified by age.

he same intensity that Sheikh Mohammed. Crown Prioce of Dubai aod federal defeoce minister, devotes to his classicwinning horses is brought to bear oo camel hreeding. A camel calves only every two years, after a 13 mooth gestation period, although producing up to 30 embryos at a time.

The Embryo Transfer Research Centre for Racing Camels was established at Al Ain, under the patronage of Sheikh Khalifa, the Crown Prince of Ahu Dhabi, to develop techniques for the transfer of embryos from top racers to other camels. The first embryo-transfer calves were born six years ago. One female. Misikin, conceived 12 offspring in a season by this method, a feat that would normally have taken a quarter of a century.

The first frozen embryo-transfer calf was born last year, in a technical hreakthrough in which it was stored at -196 degrees centigrade before completing its gestation in its new mother. A beast of burden no more, a fine racing camel can command a price tag of \$1 million.

Policies are environmentally sound

The emphasis in the United Arab Emirates is on economic progress without pollution

n the skies, the flight of the houbara bustard on its 1,600 mile journeys from its wintering grounds in the Emirates to the borders of Kazakhstan is tracked by tiny transmitters. On land, men of the Abu Dhabi Desert Rangers patrol the territories of rare gazelle, wolf and caracal lynx. On the offshore islands, naturalists check the nesting habitat of the red-billed tropicbird and the crab

Left to its own devices, progress is a predator. The Gulf has some of the heaviest shipping traffic in the world; ashore, construction is a multibillion dollar industry. Sludge and tanker waste fouls beaches and marine life. Man brings roads, buildings, vehicles and - if allowed - weapons to the

Animals that cope with extreme summer heat and unforgiving terrain can be savaged by burnan prosperity. Early decisions were made to protect

As a young man, Sheikh Zayed was hunting gazelle with a rifle when he saw that this was no more than "an outright attack on animals" that would lead swiftly to their extinction. "I changed my mind," he said, "and decided to restrict myself to falcoury only." Emirate-wide protection of wildlife followed, with an outright ban on shooting birds, for example. enforced by the Desert Rangers and backed by legislation from the Federal Environment Agency.

Sheikh Zayed practices what he preaches. He has planted more than a million trees on the island of Sir Bani Yas, which once supported a commubecame an occasional resting place for fishermen and pearl divers.

From the mainland, he brought breeding herds of Arabian oryx, sand gazelle and mountain gazelle, the dhabi for which Abu Dhabi is named. They share the sanctuary with endangered species from other arid habitats, scimitar-homed oryx, barbary sheep,

The forest of green on the island - not seen since the region turned dry in a climatic change five thousand



nity of Nestorian monks and later Bird of prey: Falcoury remains one of the most popular traditional skills in the United Arab Emirates

stays. Black-necked swans have been introduced to drift elegantly on freshwater ponds.

Full use is made of technology. The 34-gramme transponders attached to the shy houbara are part of a study of the breeding biology of the rare bird the Arabian Leopard Trust. This was carried out by the National Avian Research Centre. The centre supports the ruler of Sharjah - the environa falcon release programme, set up by Sheikh Zayed, which is aimed at years ago and crocodile and strengthening populations in the wild, captive breeding reserve in the Hajar hippopotanicus disappeared - tempts Good husbandry of the birds is taught infountains.

migrating birds to make lengthy in special falcon clinics, which maximises their chances of survival when they are freed after the winter Willing season.

Research into scarce members of the cat family, leopard, caracal lynx, Gordon's wild cat, is carried out by set up two years ago by Sheik Sultan, mental effort is country-wide.

Plans are in hand to create a

The specialist Desert and Marine the subtle eye needed to catch such Environment Research Centre works in cooperation with the university at Al Ain, whose zoo is the largest in the Middle East. The encouragement this gives children to develop interest and curiosity in their heritage is echoed by a national museum of natural

history in Sharjah. The desert is not a monotone ocean of sand; their forebears navigated by the changes in its undulations, the colours of its gravels and dunes. ferns and bushes. Training helps reefs off the east coast have been

Photographs by Romano Cagnoni and Patricia Franceschetti

tell-tales to be passed on. At sea, bottle-nosed and humpback

dolphin, a third of the world's species of whales, fighting fish and the tingainly and heart-tugging dugong. the sea cow, inhabit waters through which 30,000 ships pass each year with a quarter of the world's oil exports in their tanks.

Owners whose vessels dump oil sludge and other pollutants are given

protected by the ruler of Fujairah, who pioneered the first offshore marine

Protection across the country is coordinated by the Federal Environment Agency. The impact of development projects on the environment is studied and changes are made at the planning stage if warranted.

It is illegal to shoot birds, and to collect their eggs - but the traditional skills of falcomy still survives. It is part heavy fines. The magnificent coral - of a policy that underpins the natural links between man and the wild.

Celebration fails to heal Gaullists' divide -

Mary Dejevsky

With France swiftly returning to normal after the two-week lorrydrivers' protest, the country's ruling Gaullists turned out in force to celchrate the 20th anniversary of their party, the Rassemblement pour la République (Rally for the Republic). At 20 regional meetings across France, including a 5,000 strong gathering in Paris, party members heard a call from the Prime Minister and RPR leader, Alain Juppé, to banish "depression" and fight for victory in the 1998 parliamentary elections. Despite relief that the two-week lorry drivers' strike was over, yesterday's festivities had a defensive quality and only served to underline the fficulties that face the French right

less than two years after it won back the presidency from the Socialists.
The decision to hold regional festivities rather than one giant national gathering, as for the 10th anniversary in 1986, was calculated to address criticism that the party's leaders have become remote from the rank and file. National politicians were urged to attend one or more local events, while Mr Juppe set the tone by speaking at Agen, in his native re-gion of Aquitaine, before flying to

Paris to address the meeting here. The whereabouts and attitude of President Jacques Chirac, who founded the RPR in 1976 as a scarcely disguised vehicle to gain the presidency, however, were a mystery. Leader of the party for most of its existence -

until he resigned to campaign for the presidency in October 1994 - he did not even send a celebratory message.

As president, Mr Chirac has stead-fastly upheld the idea that the head of state should be seen to represent all the French and has stayed away from party events. His silence yesterday was also interpreted as a move to boost Mr Juppe's authority at the head of the RPR. Even since his formal election to the post a year ago, Mr Juppé has suffered from the fact that other Gaullists of n more traditional stamp – Philippe Seguin and Charles Pasqua among them – are far more popular than he is.

Corrèze, with Mr Juppé in Aquitaine and Paris, gave the impression of a party uncomfortably straddled beparts uncomfortably straddled beparts and Paris, gave the impression of a party uncomfortably straddled beparts uncomfortably straddled beparts and Paris, gave the impression of a party uncomfortably straddled beparts and Paris, gave the impression of a party uncomfortably straddled beparts and Paris, gave the impression of a party uncomfortably straddled beparts and party uncomfortable between the par

Yesterday, in a decision believed to have Mr Chirac's blessing, it was Mr Seguin who attended the RPR celebrations at Egletons in the president's home department of the Corrèze. Egletons was where, in October 1976, Mr Chirac announced his intention to form the new party.

Intentionally or not, the pres-ence of Mr Séguin, and, also, of Mrs Chirac, at the RPR "shrine" in the

tween its past and its future, and

divided in its personal loyalties.

The decision of Mr Chirac and of Edouard Balladur, both leading lights of the RPR, to contest the last presidential election, left the RPR divided according to personal loyalties. Last week witnessed a further ideological division, as MPs from the RPR's "traditionalist" wing supported their old enemy, Mr Giscard

gie European currency.

The ambassador of Zaire to France, Ramazani Baya, is being re-called immediately following a fatal road accident in the Riviera town of Menton in which two French adolescents were killed. Public pressure had been mounting for the ambas-sador, who is said to have been driving at 120km per hour in a 40km zone, to have his diplomatic immunity lifted and face trial.

Jordan lambasts **Israelis** in war of words

Patrick Cockburn Jerusalem

In a marked escalation of the verbal conflict between Israel and the Arab world, Jordan's Prime Minister yesterday accused his counterpart of duplicity which had confused and

frustrated the peace process. "Does Bibi Netanyahu nave a strategy or not?" asked Abdel-Karim Kabariti, "You hear one thing from him and then see something else on the ground." The criticism sounded a plaintive note; earlier this year Jordan briefly aspired to be the Israeli Prime Minister's interlocutor with the Arab world, But In an interview with Ma ariv yesterday he said Mr Netanyahu had not followed through on promises made to Jordan to continue the peace process. "We wanted very much to trust Bibi Netanyahu. We gave ... him the benefit of the doubt,"

Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, on Jordanian insistence and in return for a promise to continue the peace process, had closed Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem, but the Israeli Prime Minister had not

kept his side of the bargain. Israel's relations with Egypt and Syria are also deteriorating. In response to Egypt's complaints about Israeli plans to ex-



pand Jewish settlements on the West Bank, Mr Netanyahu said he wrote to Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, saying: "I made clear that our policy, our right to settle and build upon existing settlements, accords with peace." Israel has written to the United States complaining of

Egypt's hostile behaviour.

In Cairo yesterday Syria asked the Arah League states, which are meeting to discuss Isruel's settlement policy, to freeze normalisation with Israel. "Israel's actions are compelling the Arabs to boycott her, halt multilateral activity which involves Arabs and close the diplomatic offices Israel has

opened in a few Arab nations." said Issa Darwish, the Syrian ambassador to Cairo.

The Palestinians are cheered by Mr Netanyahu's deteriorating relations with the Arabs and the rest of the world. Ahmed Abd A-Rahman, the Palestinian Authority's cabinet secretary, said: "The present negotiations

[with Israel], even if they will not yield results, are an opportuni-ty for us to expose the Israeli po-

negotiations are accompanied international isolation of the Netanyahn government. Every day that passes Israel los-

Washington's support, his position is not desperate. But now it is be, and not Mr Arafat, as sition. As you see, the happened earlier in the year, who is asking in vain for a meeting. This week both attend the conference in Lisbon of the Organisation for Security and es another friend or supporter." Co-operation Europe but n So long as Mr Netanyahu has meeting has been arranged. Co-operation Europe but no

Asean-EU co-operation," com-plained Ali Alatas, Indonesia's Foreign Minister. "They have structed to make their way to London. failed to achieve their purpose so far but it has become in-

L'pic voyage makes ratings soar

If you had been in Trafalgar Square one Saturday in October, you would have witnessed, almost certainly without knowing it. a small moment in Japan's cultural history. It didn't look like anything special: two young Japanese men tottering to a halt in front of a bank of television cameras. They had not eaten for three days, and for the last 20 miles of their journey, they had walked. They were dazed, skinny and dirty, and were whisked off to a Japanese restaurant and an expensive hotel.

But back in Japan, when this smail event was broadcast, ratings were in the millions. National newspapers compared the two lads to Buddhist holy men. A book about them sold 700,000 copies in the space of 10 days.

The two saints are Hiroyuki Ariyoshi and Kazunari Moriwaki, a pair of 22-year-old comedians known collectively, and for no discernible reason, as Saruganseki - "Monkey Stone Rock". Six months ago, they were recruited by Nippon Television for its Saturday-night comedy programme, entitled, with equal surrealism, Omeand, Tele-Youth! Such programmes, the staple of late-night broadcasting, traditionally exert little pressure on the intellects of their young viewers, with a digest of music, chat, imbecilic party games and views of nipples. The unknown Monkey Stone Rock were hired to provide another key ingredient of the youth show mix sadistic sniggering at the hardships of others. Flown to Hong Kong under false pretences, they were presented with 100,000 yen (£570) between them, and in-

The weekly updates on their misadventures (they were trailed by a camera crew who were forbidden from giving them material support), were in-

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Monkey Stone Rock

al silliness. But as the pair grew poorer, hungrier, more sick and more desperate, the show became a cult, capturing onefifth of the Saturday night audience and taking on an epic, spiritual significance.

"Within six months," wrote the august Yomiuri newspaper, not noted for its effusions on dippy television programmes, "the two comedians, so cocky and lighthearted in the beginning, took on the appearance and attitude of religious men." The sticky sentiment lurking beneath this apparently silly un-

dertaking is suggested by the words of the lads' theme tune, The Longest Journey": Fighting against strong winds

You, the travellers, Are heading for a destination Far, far away. Until we meet again, keep

Early on, however, the smiles were wiped off their faces. Ariyoshi and Moriwaki were arrested in Thailand, and were reduced to begging in India, where they were hospitalised for food poisoning and malnutri-

To Tele-Youths in Europe and America, the idea of working your way across Asia may not appear very remarkable but, to pampered young Japanese, it was eye-poppingly bold. Twenty-two thousand miles and 190 days after their departure, they returned to Japan as heroes. In Tokyo, thousands of people turned out at a baseball stadium to welcome them home. The longest journey is over, but its message of endurance and steadfastness will

Richard Lloyd Parry

Snub to Europe as Asean welcomes Burma

Richard Lloyd Parry lakarta

The leaders of Asean, the Association of South East Asian Nations, sent a strong message to Europe at the weekend that they will not tolerate foreign criticism of their records on hu-

At an informal summit in Jakarta on Saturday, the seven

leaders confirmed that Burma would be granted full membership of the organisation, which includes Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore. But they stopped short of naming a date. saying only that Burma's membership would be granted simultaneously with that of Asean's other observer members, Laos and Cambodia.

furore when it was announced in July, especially in the United States and the European Union, where concern runs high for the Burmese democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, and ber sufferings at the hands of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slore). Recently some Asean states, including the Philippines and Sin-Burma's candidacy caused a gapore, also expressed

reservations. Saturday's statement appears to be a compromise intended to satisfy Ascan's more cautious members while presenting a defiant face to foreign critics.

The joint statement also not-ed "with increasing concern the efforts of one member of the EU to introduce extraneous issues, such as the question of East Timor..." This is a refer-

ence to Portugal, the former colonial ruler of East Timor, which was annexed by Indone sia in 1976 but which the UN still considers to be under Por-

tuguese stewardship.
The struggles of the Timorese resistance against Indonesian oppression were recognised in October with the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Jose Ramos-Horta, an exiled free-

dom fighter, and the territory's bishop, Carlos Belo. "Portugal is making the East Timor issue a condition for

creasingly an irritant in the re-lationship between Asean and the EU." tended as no more than the usu-



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the leader page

The election's not over, but try telling the parties

what a relief that would be to an concerned. The cross-dressing games played by politicians in the runup to the national vote are becoming ever more baffling.

We have become so used to the Conservatives behaving like an opposition and Labour behaving like a government that we are in danger of being seduced by their borrowed identities. In fact we should be demanding that the Labour Party behave a hit more like Her Majesty's Opposition in the next few months, for that is what the nation needs. And at the same time, we should he scrutinising the Conservatives as the party of government - because that is what they are now, and could well continue to be after the election, whenever

Clearly the Government has little scope for governing right now. Govern-ments pursue peace in Northern Ireland. The Conservatives can't do any such thing while their majority dwindles and disappears, and they depend on the support of the Ulster Unionists. Instead, they are engaged in a holding game of empty speeches and rhetoric, waiting for an election to deliver them the power to

act - just like a party of opposition. Governments set budgets and live with the consequences. They weigh up their tax receipts and spending oeeds, and dis-

what a relief that would be to all get won't appear until after the election, if it appears at all. Instead ministers are engaged in Budget charades, where the real consequences aren't confronted until after the election -- just like a party

The Conservatives are conceotrating their energy on making life difficult for their opponents. Backbenchers never let up their attacking refrain, frontbenchers actively debate and criticise their opponents' policies, and their campaigning is hard-headed and ruthless. Attacks on Labour's tax-and-spend image and on Tony Blair himself may not be as effective as the 1992 tax bombshell and the campaign against Neil Kinnock. But the strategy is hitting home. The fact is that the Conservatives are extremely good at opposition games, and they are hungry to win the election.

Labour's performance is tame and sedate in comparison. In fact Labour are behaving irritatingly like a party of governmeot: constantly trying to reassure voters, to be dignified, sensible and responsible. Even when the Government does something appalling — like calling for more mandatory sentences to stuff prisons to bursting and remove the discretion of judges - Labour exhibit no passion or outrage. All we hear instead are a few measured, respectable words. After years out of power, the party is trytribute the resources accordingly. Not so ing to create an appearance of experithe Conservatives, Much of the revenue ence and respectability, while winning



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voters' trust. Hence the fiscal rectitude and prudence galore. Labour's pofilead contributes too; the media discuss its post-election plans as if Labour were already the party of government.

Of course it would be silly to whinge too much about the borrowed identities. Both sides are following a very rational course, given their circumstances and the voters' preconceptions. But it would be equally foolish to swallow the role-playing too, and to let the parties get away with wearing each other's clothes in the oext few months.

genuinely acts like an opposition in the tion. Harrying here, worrying there, the

new year. If the Government do indeed lose their majority after the Wirral South by-election, John Major's Government will depend on the support he can garner from other parties - not least the Ulster Unionists. The country needs an opposition in Parliament to hold the Government fiercely to account under such circumstances, and to prevent politicians getting away with sordid deals in smoke-filled rooms which keep the Government alive but jeopardise North-

em Ireland peace. Moreover it is in Labour's own inter-For a start, we need an opposition that est to behave a bit more like an opposi-

Parliamentary Labour Party has the chance to go for the kill and hring the Government down. Should a squeamish Labour leadership fail to use the kinds of guerrilla tactics adopted by the Conservatives during the last Callaghan government, voters might well conclude that the party is still not determined enough. or hard-headed enough, for govern-

Failing to exhibit the same direction and ferocity in their campaigning across the country - laudable as it may appear to those weary of negative politics could still deny Labour the prize as well. "Enough is enough" sounds mildly indignant as a campaign slogan. It is hardly the hallmark of a party scenting blood and taking its final aim at its prey.

Meanwhile the Conservatives should still be viewed as a party of government - not just for their record, hut for what they plan to do in future should they be re-elected. As yet we still have very little inkling of the content of a 1997 Conservative manifesto. Labour's plans may have gaps, hut they do have several pledges they keep shouting about. We can only speculate about what a fifth Conservative government might do.

Ministers should be hauled up to account for the discrepancies and confusion in last week's Budget plans. For example, would a future Conservative government increase real funding for the health service every year as the Prime Minister has promised? Or will it cut NHS spending in real terms in 1998, as the Treasury's Red Book sets out? The electorate deserves to know what the Tories' plans are just as much as it deserves to hear Labour's proposals.

Government and opposition will continue to dance around each other for the next few months, swapping roles as they swap insults and soundhites, too. As long as politicians are both election strategists and players in a parliamentary system, we should expect nothing less. But we should remember not to he hoodwinked by it either.

Sport's fat cats: a male preserve

hese are the kinds of fat cats we are I not supposed to begrudge. Our richest sports stars - Nick Faldo. Damon Hill, Frank Bruno - become so because the public want to pay to watch their hrilliance or to buy the products they endorse. It all sounds a perfectly fair way to choose our national millionaires. But there's a catch. The top 10 richest sports stars in Britain are all men. And guess why. Because the members of the public who have the leisure time and the money to spend watching sport or buying sponsored merchandise are all men. More leisure for women might make more women rich, too.

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Shortsighted neglect of **UK** shipping

Sir: The lorry drivers' dispute in France and the Channel Tunnel fire once again highlight the vulnerability of this country's transport and supply system to events outside our control. It was therefore with frustration and anger we learned that yet again the Government had produced a Budget which offered not a sh ed not a shr of hope or assistance to its shipping

The spiral of decline in our merchant fleet and its seafarers over the last two decades is a national disaster. Our ficet of UKowned vessels has sunk from 1,614 to less than 240; more than 60,000 scafarers have lost their jobs; recruitment of cadets is now at one third the level required to maintain the status quo, and we are fighting for a fair share of a world market with ageing ships, ageing officers and crews, and growing despair.

Yet we are living in a world where seaborne trade is growing at record rates and is reliably predicted to rise by a further 70 per cent over the next decade. Enlightened governments are seizing the opportunity to expand trade, employment and skills through investment in their ships and shipping industries. Our ministers state that they are not prepared to enter a "spiral of

support for the industry.

Myunion, supported by the
Chamber of Shipping and the
ratings union. RMT, has responded to every government request to justify investment in the industry. The measures that we propose are financially modest, hut essential to developing the competitive edge we need and to safeguard our fleet and vital maritime jobs. They would cost an estimated £35m securing just 1 extra per cent of world seaborne trade would yield film for the country's balance of

The next government - whoever it may be - will be writing the obituary for the British merchant fleet and hurying 300 years of maritime heritage unless argent action is taken soon. In effect, this will achieve what two world wars couldn't; put this country's survival in the hands of other interests.
BRIAN ORRELL General Secretary, Numast Loudon Ell

Sir: Two years after the Channel Tunnel opened, there are more sailings by more operators across the Straits of Dover than at any time in history.

While some consolidation is inevitable, the claim by John Adams (letter, 29 November) that the tunnel will twipe out most of the competition from the ferries without government subsidy flies in the face of all competent forecasting and the current view of ferry operations.

For Dr Adams to argue that the high-speed rail link to St Paneras should be stopped because the tunnel is vulnerable to terrorist attack, and therefore undependable, is absurd. St Paneris will compete primarily with Heathrow and Gatwick, not Dover. The idea that London might be cut off from Paris for months because airlines could not switch planes to boost capacity is laughable.

ugnace. High speed trains on new lines including numerous long tunnels have carried 5 billion passengers in the last 30 years. Not a single one has been killed, either by accident



or evil intent. Can the airlines and ferries say the same? RICHARD HOPE Consultant Editor Railway Gazene Sutton, Surrey

Sir: French lorry drivers used to sport a sticker designed to improve their public image with the words Je roule pour yous (I am driving for you). Once, however, I was stuck behind a lorry whose driver had rearranged the words to read Je vous roule (1 swindle you). At the time I thought it was just a joke. ORMOND UREN ondon NW5

Church dioceses stay independent

Sir: Your report "General Synod sir. four report "General Synod grapples with new reforms" (29 November) suggests that the Church of England is to become "an organisation run by one central committee". Not so.

While the changes uoder consideration are designed to replace present fragmentation amongst the national church bodies with coherence, the virtual independence of dioceses and parishes will not be threatened. You report that Sir Patrick

Cormack believes that Parliament will be marginalised under the proposals. Again, not so. Parliament's significant role in the rarnament a argument role in the life of the Church of England will continue. The Church legislative proposals will continue to be considered by Parliament and the Second Commissioner will answer questions in Parliament on the same range of matters as at

Canon John Stanley is quoted as saying that the reforms entail "a very hig transfer of power and authority away from the Synod". However, the Synod's functions

(including its power to initiate legislation) will remain, and the management of its business will be in the hands of a Business Committee of its members. At least half of the Archhishops' Council, which wilt assume the present Standing Committee's role in coordinating other aspects of the Church's national work, will be elected by the General Synod, and the Council will be accountable to the Synod in a number of other

The Council will only be able to operate if it works closely with, and is supported by, the Synod and the

The proposals for reforming the Church's national institutions are ultimately about equipping the Church to respond more coherently to the challenges that No one is seeking to increase the role of the centre and there will no

doubt be scope for further functions to be devolved in What the proposals do seek to do is to ensure that where an issue needs to be considered nationally we can address it more coherently and more quickly, and thus be

more effective in the Church's mission and service to God and the MICHAEL DUNELM The Right Rev Michael Turnbull Bishop of Durham

Early evidence for the kilt

Sir: Your correspondent, James Fraser Wild (letter, 28 November), asserts that "an English Quaker. Thomas Rawlinson, invented the so-called Scottish national dress, the kilt". I would refer him to Letters from a Gentleman in the North of Scotland by Captain Edward Burt where he would read

"The common habit of the ordinary Highlanders is ... set in folds and girt round the waist to make of it a short petticoat that reaches half way down the thigh and the rest is brought over the shoulders and then fastened before

"The stocking rises no higher than the thick of the calf, and from the middle of the thigh to the middle of the leg is a oaked space. which, being exposed to all weathers, becomes tanned and freekled, and the joint being mostly infected with the country distemper, the whole is very disagreeable to the eye. This dress is called the 'quelt' and ... so very short that in a windy day, going up a hill or stooping, the indecency of it

is plainly discovered." In the same letter Burt recounts the unsettling experience of "a lady of noble family" being led over a steep precipice by a gillie. Averting her eyes from the terrors of the abyss, she was "forced to look up towards the bare Highlander all the way along". This letter was written in 1724 and the unfortunate lady's experience was some time before

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that, therefore the short kilt predates the arrival of Rawlinson in Bonawe in 1727. He could not have FULTON GILLESPIE

Chance to cut conservation tax

Burwell, Cambridgeshin.

Sir: Tomorrow the House of Commons will have a second chance to remove an anomaly which, in the words of Norman Lamont in his 1993 Budget statement, "makes a nonsense of any attempt to use the tax system to help the environment".

On 27 March. MPs rejected by just one vote an amendment to the Finance Bill, intended to reduce the rate of VAT levied on energy conservation materials to 8 per cent the same rate as currently levied on energy consumption. This happened only after extravagant promises were made by the Treasury during the debate, both regarding increased future funding for energy conservation and addressing the issue in the next Budget.

Neither undertaking was met last week. Let us hope that at least two of those Conservative MPs who look the Treasury's word on trust will be prepared not to allow this absurd trade distortion to continue. and will join their nine colleagues who abstained last time. ANDREW WARREN Director, Association of the Conservation of Energy

Study needed on household size

Sir: Hamish McRae (29) November) is right to raise the issue that current trends towards smaller households may not necessarily continue.

As he says, trends in marriage might change. An increase in the hirthrate, currently below replacement levels in nearly every European country, could be regarded as desirable to counter the ageing population.

Another cruciai issue is the essumption that the number of households will increase by 4,4m by 2016. The latest population projection shows a population increase of only 21m over the next 20 years, equivalent to about 1 million households. So most of the assumed increase in households is due to smaller household size, an assumption that I feel warrants further research. Perhaps planning has to be based

more on immediate requirements. DR SMITH Central Policy Unit Sheffield Circ Council

Hot tip

Sir: I thought I knew how to take a black person's temperature ("Diane Abbott is vorty", 29 November) until I read Bernie Grant's criticism of Finnish nurses and their suitability to tender to the needs of black patients.

Is the use of standard thermometers ineffective due to some difference in physiology? I would welcome some advice from MARTIN PRITCHETT. Windsor, Berkshire

The media left Murdoch too late

Sir: The BBC, ITC, Polly Toynbee and an array of the good and great continue to bewail the capture of the digital citadel by Rupert Murdoch ("TV meets the law of the jungle", 28 November). Where were they when something could have been done about it?

Eighteen months ago. Andrew Neil, Gus Fischer (former chief executive of News International) and I met the head of every major ITV company, the BBC, a number of cahle companies and newspaper publishers, We did not say Rupert Murdoch

should be "stopped". We believe that the entrepreneurial spirit is something that should be valued. What we did say was that they should compete with him - and that they were in a very strong position

We presented to them a strategy and business plan which proposed that they form a single, cooperative entity to create British television's own policy on conditional access - the gateway to the digital service.

We suggested they create their own customer service operation. tailor-made for their own requirements; they drive the creation of a combined satellite and terrestrial decoder, because they would inevitably be second to market with fewer channels than satellite; and they formulate a united buying strategy with which to approach Hollywood, the sports organisations and programme producers.

We spent six months lobbying the television industry and government - entirely at our own expense. The result? The BBC told us it expected the commercial sector to take up the endgels. The commercial sector, while privately worrying about "what Rupert Murdoch would say", finally told us they didn't think our plan was the way forward, and they would concentrate on being content providers. Grantada joined the strellite camp with BSky B. The Government raised no objection when News Corp bought Britain's leading fund I think, at that stage, only (developer of digital terrestrial television.

To top it all, someone leaked a copy of the plan to Rupert Murdoch, who became fairly unhappy that three of his former executives were

stirring up the opposition. So where were the Christopher Blands, the ITCs, the politicians and the press when there was a chance of success? Did they not understand what was going ou? Or, worse still, did they not believe sufficiently in themselves to do something about it until it was too late?

Are they poised to make the same mistakes agam? The future of digital television does not lie in one-way broadcasting but in a system that enables the viewer to

control what he wattls to see, when he wants to see it - and how he wants to see it. BSkyB cannot solve that problem satellite technology does not have media companies have, once again, the opportunity to take the lead,

the handwidth. The established Will they do something about it? STEPHÉN BARDEN Chief Erecutive WorldPipe Limited Kingston upon Thanes, Surrey (The author was general manager at BSkyB in 1992)

Sir: Have the Tory Euro-sceptics nothing to say about bartering sovereignty (or the modern democratic equivalent) with Mr Murdoch? JON GRAY Markshury, Aron

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Many anti-EU journalists are xenophobic, paranoid and shameless manipulators of the truth. Adam Fergusson points the finger at Christopher Booker (far right), a leading exponent of the art



The shredded mind of the Europath

hat the question, "Europe In or Out?" like a grumbling appendix, weakening our ability to make vital and immediate choices on our future in Europe, is a measure of the effectiveness of Euroscepticism. By that I mean the wilful and successful portrayal of Brussels as a combination of Babylon and Carthage, of the Commission as the Beast and the Prince of Darkness rolled into one, and of the whole institution as a Gothic Horror where nothing is what it seems, in which things move that should not move. Demonised, dehumanised, the Commission is the last enemy, the ultimate threat to nationhood - and all the governments and chancelleries of Europe are in its thrall. This campaign, with powerful support from certain newspapers, is fuelled by the driven, almost tunnel-visioned exertions of a small coterie of writers and orators. For these guardians of our honour, the agents of Brussels are at work everywhere, like Gremlins, corrupting Europe's bureaucracies, emasculating her politicians, infecting, sapping, ment, none stridently screams destroying, leeching, bleaching. for integration. As for monetary

(One could go on like this for a union, no voice is heard long time; and they do, actually). Ordinary people would not normally give wall space to the silly effusions of a Bill Cash or a Teresa Gorman; nor the time of day to the mawkish tosh that Christopher Booker writes in The Sunday Telegraph about "the true Europe we all love" the means France's restaurants. mainly). Of course, there are the thinking man's Europhobes too, whose direct audience is more limited. But the outpourings of the rest have got through to the popular mind. Why has the counter-attack been so ineffective in swaying public opin-ion the other way? In Westminster, the Positive Europeans In industry, in the City, the behave themselves on the back practical need to be at the cenbenches, and Conservatives and Labour are paralysed - by the overshadows, for most, any parliamentary arithmetic, by the overriding need to keep parties together as an election nears. Serious newspapers have been quietly weighing the advantages and dangers of EMU and how best it can be achieved, considering whether Britain can afford to be left out - but, having balanced judge-

expounding the importance, even the adventure, of running what will be the biggest, stablest reserve currency in the world. In truth, very few of the Euro-friendly merit the "fanatically pro-European" label the Eurosceptics give them: the excitability, the exaggeration and the distortion is all on the other side. Independent figures - last week Nico Henderson in The Economist, and Roy Denman in The Times - com-pellingly warn of the dangers of voluntary exclusion from a domestic market which absorbs three-fifths of our products, a weighty but negative argument. tre of whatever Europe is going emotional views of what its nature should be. So the banner of unequivocal European integration is borne ineffectually by the Liberal Party, to whom it seems to do little harm - while the loud trumpet of divorce is blown by single-issue move-ments of the Right, towards which for their own reasons lone-wolf politicians and ex-

Thus the Eurosceptics - "Europaths" would better express their state of mind: Nico Henderson talks of Euroscepticaemia - have made the running. The Eurosceptics have understood, by calculation or otherwise, the first principle of propaganda, that the mass of people conform to whatever opinion seems to be the norm. If the propagandists' enemy is internationalism - the ideal on which the European Union rests it can best be fought with nationalism. Whereas that larger view of mankind emphasises his common humanity, the merits of reconciliation and the advantages of co-operation, the narrower one builds on fear of the unknown, conjures enemies where there are none, stresses differences, and blames the alien, inside and out - in other words, inspires in the public mind an obsessive suspicion of foreigners and an excessive fear of persecution. That is how it has been done, down the ages. But any politician, by speech or pen, who kindles hatred by playing on mankind's latent nationalism - presenting it as patriotism - plays with fire. One who does it knowingly in the context of late 20th-century Europe, struggling at last out of a thousand-year time-warp of political confrontation and bloody war, is worse than irresponsible.

he Eurosceptic message is a nationalist one, exploiting public fear and igno-rance of what Europe is about. Thus it must be picked over and demolished detail by detail, because otherwise the Big Lie, constantly repeated, becomes the

Booker (published two weeks ago by ACE, the independent ropean study group) deliberately dissected the past year's writings, mainly in The Sunday Telegraph, of Christopher Booker. It is he who weekly prints, circulates and recirculates the tales which feed suspicion of Brussels' intentions. He is the principal journalistic monthpiece - unelected, of course - for all Eurosceptics. The blurb of his new book, the aptly-named Castle of Lies, describes him as "the scourge of overnighty bureaucrats and pupper politicians". A columnist last Thursday put it better - "the top straight banana on the doomed doubledecker bus". The point is that, through misinformation and to say about Brussels or any of lished in *The Daily Telegraph* on misconstruction, Booker has (1 its works, suppressing the other 21 November. It ridiculed that believe) done more than most to generate distrust in Britain of hope of finding balance in them. : correspondent for not mentionthe European Union.

Booker's writing therefore represents the whole gamut of Eurosceptic evangelism, although his attention to the psychiatric disorders of his opponents - everyone, everything is "mad" - is probably singular. He tackles the task by the textbook, accusing any who disagree with him of purveying propaganda: a week ago his column said the editor of the Evening Standard was "Eurobesotted" and that I was an "amazingly ignorant propagan-dist" who had been "hired by one of our EU front organisations" to discredit him. He implies that the entire "tireless" readership of the Telegraph are on his side, beavering away at a grand conspiracy (but he also describes my malevolent con-spirators of Brussels as tireless; and often his correspondents Received Truth. My recent are "weary" - it's all the same decker (Booker's readers are relaying the same rubbish about pamphlet Fiction Prize for to him). Then he sets about not told that the open-plat- Luxembourg last December.

ing how Europe is plotting lished draft directive "designed to strike a crippling hlow at Britain's bus manufacturers by outlawing the double-decker"; or the "hidden agenda ... to drive the British out, to make room for more Spaniards in British waters" (Drake, thou shouldst be living now!). He makes our flesh creep by extrapolating figures, misquoting sta-tistics, manufacturing alarms. Time and again his facts are absurd - the dead mackerel six feet deep in St Michael's Mount Bay; or plain wrong (see below). He deals, not so much in halftruths as in half the truth; and because he has not a good word

massaging minds himself, warn-

canning The Castle of the EU's popularity
Lies, I note repeated in Lusembourg—the fact that its among them most of the distorted reports which Booker himself has already admitted to be discredited. Here again are the twisted tales - some mere of a single sheep in need of docgreenhouse heater that needed expensive testing for 37 differ-ent gases; of the scandalous restraints on retail Yorkshire pudding (this time not about its dimensions but about fabricating and selling it as such in Surrey); of the metrication of travails of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (as though they hadn't successfully been relieved long ago); of the demise of the British double-

formed London Routemaster hasn't been built since 1968, but that might get them thinking). And here are the dead mackerel once more, discarded near St Michael's Mount in the

1970s because of EU quotas which then hadn't even been imposed, not just six feet deep but spread over "thousands of square yards". If everything which one has checked is distorted or inaccurate, how can one assume that anything unchecked is right?

There is a brand-new example to hand of the technique of misquoting figures, dressing up facts and blackening with sarcasm. Intending, one imag-ines, to gam publicity for his book, Booker had a letter pubside of his stories, there is no newspaper's own Brussels ing "the most obvious reason for

inhabitants receive the biggest pay-out per head of any mem-ber states ... from the Brussels fruit machine". Nemesis struck swiftly. Five days later, he was ordered to send a letter of corhearsay - of the notional flock of a single sheep in need of doc-wrote, "that these figures ... umentation and ear tags; of the greenhouse heater that needed expensive testing for 37 differsized in the Grand Duchy". He had found that every Luxembourg household, far from netting £1,318 in 1994, had a net contribution rate among the largest in Europe (£360 in 1995 Sorrey); of the metrication of - a third again as much as the Norfolk Broads; of the Britain's, although he didn't admit that). Anyone who bothcred to ask about the Luxembourg figures knew the reason for them long ago. Indeed, it was in my pamphlet, because he was

This pusillanimous apology listed the Duchy-based institutions receiving the "huge sums"
- the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors, the Investment Bank - and then struck gold! The European Parliament's library, Booker revealed triumphantly, had lent MEPs only 126 books in the past vear - at a cost he calculated. by a simple division sum, of £46,500 a volume. What an ass! Does he suppose this to be a lending library merely stocking fiction like his own solely for the benefit of MEPs? Modern information libraries do not lend books much - certainly not reference books or legal or parliamentary records and documentation or even (so help me) newspa-per cuttings. They are data banks, accessible through technologies which Booker may not have heard of. Had ... he consulted it, this one which also operates in Brussels and answered 6,372 requests . . . from MEPs alone in 1995 - could have put him straight on most of his delusions. But, of course, he doesn't want to know.

The Eurosceptic case is not about facts but about fear. The --minds of its extreme votaries are not for changing, they are permanently and hiologically set in the nationalistic mode in which they perceived threat to their human group frightens them. The public perception, however, can be changed, and is ever up for grabs. People will answer to reason as will as to Illa night passion. How long before they realise by whom they are being led by the nose?

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My teachers taught me too well...



Miles Kington

was startled to hear the news over the weekend that two children, or erstwhile children; are suing the school they attended for not giving them sufficient education, which I presume means not enough GCSE certificates. The reason I was startled is that I am engaged in exactly the same lawsuit with my old school, except that it is in reverse. I am suing my old school for over-educating me. Yes, my claim is that by giving me too much information and instruction my old school has tended to make my life a misery. A simple example: my main interest at school was in

modern languages. I was · especially interested in the origins of words, and was delighted to find when I got 10 university and started doing medieval French, that the evolution of words linked up with my memory of Latif. - that is to say, that you could trace a modern French word like "navire" meaning ship right back to Latin "navem" through all the intervening

("Navem", as I remember led to the medieval word "nef", meaning a ship, but this got shortened and eroded, and was replaced by a longer diminutive of the same word, which gave us "navire". Much the same happened to the Latin word, "apem", meaning a bee, which gave the medieval word "ef". Any word as short as "ef" is doomed to extinction, and it was duly replaced by "abeille" which comes from apiculam", which is a diminutive of "apem"...)

I can remember, too,

learning a short list of words which are the only remnants in modern French of Celtic words which actually predate the Roman invasion, and which have thus survived two thousand years and which were there before the Romans brought Latin in One of them was "luge", the name for that ridiculously large sledge in which people

use gravity to get from

nowhere to nowhere... If the reader is by now nodding off at this recitation of dusty and probably : misremembered philological facts, you can imagine what sort of a conversational bore I have been in my life at dinner parties, book launches and Millennium celebration committee meetings. I only had to bring the subject of word derivations up for my friends to begin to yawn and wives start to speculate about

the French word for decree nisi. "I see that the Norwegians got the gold for the luge again," I would hear someone say, and I would be off before you could stop me. I blame my education. There were things I was taught that I should never

have been taught, and which have blighted my life. Among the many other subjects which I blame my old school for over-educating me in are ...

I Maths. I was taught the basic rules of chance, and the law of probability. For this reason I am doomed never to have the fun of buying a lottery ticket, as I know the odds are too heavily stacked

against me.
2 English. I had the basic meanings of words like "refute" and "infer" and disinterested" dinned into me, and now I cannot hear them misused without either having dyspepsia or feeling the urge to correct the misuser, which often leads to

a biff on the nose.

3 English literature, I was introduced to Jane Austen by an over-enthusiastic teacher when I was 12, which was far too young for me to appreciate them, and I have never been able to face ber since, as my favourite auther Doyle, whom, indeed, I still prefer. As a result I cannot watch costume drama nn TV these days, as we are fed a non-stop diet of Euma this

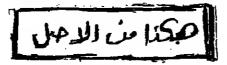
and Elizabeth that when I would much prefer Brigadier

school that rugby was a fast, flowing, skilful and exciting game, or at least that that was the way to play it, and am thus unable to watch what passes for the game today

5 Logic. I was taught the basic rules of logic, and thus cannot listen without nausca to Arry Questions, the Today programme etc, as on those programmes they conduct what passes for conversation

6 French. I ended up speaking passably good French, which means that the average Frenchman has more :. fun pretending he cannot understand the than he would. with someone he really cannot understand.

I blame my over-education for many other things (for instance, I blame many years of forcible chapel-going for the fact that I am now a devout agnostic) but that wil: give you an idea of how my law suit will be argued. I will let you know how I get on...



A Government policy stolen from King Canute

he emotion which informs Government policy towards singleparent families is fear rather than compassion. To hetp lone parents, ministers seem to believe, is mistakenly to give respectability to the very notion of single-parent house-holds and to contribute towards the hreak-up of families. In his Budget, Kenneth Clarke announced the ending of both the £6.30 per week One Parent Benefit (which goes to working lone parents) and the £5.20 per week Lone Parent Premium for those on

Income Support. Family structures have been through so many changes in their long history that we should not be surprised to find ourselves living through another upheaval. The early Church viewed love as a subversive and destructive passion. Later in the medieval period, children were seen as future earners and procreation became an obsession. Then in the middle of the 19th century, after a long period of stability, fertility rates began to fall. The size of the average British family in 1995 was 2.4 people, the lowest level ever recorded in this country.

To this trend we can add three recent changes. Cohabitation is partly replacing marriage. In 1995 a third of women in the 25- to 29-year-old bracket were cohabiting, compared with I1 per cent in 1979. Working mothers have become the norm; in the past decade their number has trebled. More and more children are brought up in single parent families. Nearly a quarter of all families with dependent children are headed by a lone parent, 90 per cent of whom are

The Government cannot influence these deep and powerful currents. There should be a statue of King Canute in Whitehall to remind politicians and their advisors of the limits of their powers. If policy makers were to work with the tide, they would take as their starting point the fact that 2.3 million children are being brought up by lone parents. This is a lifth of all our children. So the question should be "how can we help the many children with only one parent in their household?" rather than "how can we have fewer singleparent households?"

These children have been twice hurt. They accept their status hut they do not rid themselves of the absent parent. Dr Sebastian Krae-mer, a consultant child and family psychiatrist in London, spoke very eloquently about this

He said that there was always a space in a child's mind for both parents. Children know that the missing father exists and they have to work out for themselves why he didn't stay to look after them. They often think that it is in some way their own fault; that he left because

Children are also hurt because of the sheer stress which is likely to arise from the poverty and the overwork of their single parent. A



Andreas

Whittam Smith Trying to For 1.5 million lone parents and their 2.3 million children it prevent is an excluding sentiment. It lone-parent marginalises them. It tells them families

and hurtful

that they are the unfortunates who have fallen short of the ideal, with the implication that their sorry state is the result of their own fecklessness. In this rather than way the hurt which parent as well as child have suffered is help them is made worse. Furthermore, the Governboth futile

ment believes the answer to lone parents' economic prob-lems is paid work. To make it easier for mothers to take jobs, the Government introduced a childcare allowance for all families in 1994 to help pay for child-minders and nurseries until children

decline in living standards is an

inescapable concomitant of family breakdown and manag-

ing is more difficult without a partner. As a result, the aver-

have reached 11 years. Having done that, the Government feels safe in withdrawing top-up benefits available to lone parents.

But what is the Government saying here? It is this: Ione parent families have no special financial difficulties as compared with two parent households.

Common sense tells us that this is plain wrong. Lone-parent families have higher costs per child. This is largely the result of time pres-sures on lone parents. They are, for instance, more apt to buy convenience foods and use taxis for shopping than two-parent families even though there is, by definition, no second

wage.

Look at the statistics, Sixty per cent of oneparent families have an income of less than £150 a week compared with 11 per cent of twoparent families.

I would like to bear Kenneth Clarke explain his Budget measures to the children of lone parent families. What would he say? It would have to go something like this: "Although your mother is bringing you up on her own, we think your financial situation is no different from families where the mum and dad are together. You will be fine if your mum gets fulltime work. If her salary is low, we will give her some help with paying child-minders until you are 11, and after that ... well, you will just have to manage as best you can during the school

This simply isn't convincing. Indeed I even wonder whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer really believes in his measures, because he has postponed their application until 1998. It is almost as if he is leaving the way open for their reversal in next year's Budget - whoever may be delivering it.

They've learned to live with cannibals

by Polly Toynbee

Yes, the brass band played as the graduates filed in. Barnsley College's grad-uation day was a symbol of hope in a place very nearly crushed by the sudden violent death of the coal industry. Bright young faces and a host of older ones, proud but sby in

age outcomes for groups of children whose parents split up are less good than those for children whose parents stay unfamiliar gowns and mortar-boards, lined up to collect diplo-mas and degrees: fathers with camcorders, mothers with han-kies and embarrassed young Judging Government policy in this context, it is straight away obvious that Government rhetoric is harmful. Preaching people hissing at them to 'Stop it, for God's sake.' the undoubted virtues of the traditional family unit is neither reassuring nor comforting if you don't happen to live in

Only five years ago this col-lege lived and breathed coal like everyone else: 1,500 National Coal Board apprentices a year enrolled here for their day releases, and the science and engineering was all coal. Barnsley used to have the lowest staying-on-at-school rate in the country, and although it has doubled it remains too low. Coal has gone; instead the redribboned scrolls are for catering, sport, leisure, media, business, pop music technology, tourism, and yes, a BA in Band

Jeff Ennis, Labour shoe-in at the Barnsley East by-election next week, was handing out the prizes: lumps in throats all round at the many who had overcome huge obstacles to get this far. There was even a trophy for Achievement Despite Adverse Circumstances, That is the story of Barnsley - the band playing on Despite Adverse

I went to see Brassed Off, the weepy movie about Grimethorpe Colliery Band and the death of coal, to remind myself of South Yorkshire, as I hadn't been back since reporting the pit closures. Mawkish, I thought the film. I felt cross with its manipulative political naivety. even while mopping my eyes. I thought they'd hate it up here in the constituency where it was filmed - soft stuff for blunt Yorkshiremen. But they loved it. Jeff Ennis even has a poster reading "Brassed Off...with the Tories". In truth Barnsley is just like the movie - a sendmental place where everyone you stop and talk to has a story that tugs at the heart-strings of southern guilt. Generations have lived, died, coughed up and been crushed by coal so that

like war - both horrible and heroic. But the macho heroism always seemed perverse to me, no better than the desperate comradeship of the trenches. I have visited South Yorkshire coal-faces where men worked

we may live in green-belt, cen-

trally-heated comfort. Coal is



The Conservatives are incomprehensible to the long-suffering residents of Barnsley. No wonder they're feeling brassed off

on their knees in three foot high here is the people - decent breath as Thatcher's, an equal seams, sweating hetween people, decent values, would betrayer and abuser of the min-hydraulic pit-props three feet be-hard-working, censorious. ers.) Mind you, they don't like and they knew they were needed). Watching those young people filing past in their gowns, you could only be glad they had escaped their dreadful heritage either down the pits or married to them. But that is not what Barnsley feels, hecause outside the graduation hall are the others, demobbed and home to no hero's return, too many unskilled young people leaving school with nothing to do.

This is a strange political world to the outsider - a homogenous culture where the Labour party lives, breathes and embodies the community. In most of England political parties are a fringe activity con-ducted mainly by oddballs and door-knocking anoraks. Labour

bred. Half the population seems to have been a councillor or school governor at some time or another with so many posts 10 fill in a one-party state. The world outside is a mysterious place to them. Tories are utterly incomprehensible. The likes of Thatcher, Major, Redwood, and Portillo are so alien that Barnsley people feel they have been governed by cannibals for the last 17 years.

You might expect the strike. the closures and the 17 years of cannibalism to have turned them imo bitter revolutionaries. But no, they are New Labour to the core, always have been. (Scarpill's party is imprudently standing against Labour but his name is cursed in the same

the word "New". Jeff Ennis says be prefers to call himself "Common sense Labour" - not because he's trying to stake out some slightly more left position. but because nothing "New" trips easily off the Barnsley tongue: old values, old decency. old concern for community.

Jeff Ennis is the leader of Barnsley Council, 44 and a primary school teacher. All candidates had to be grilled by a Lundon panel for New Labour correctness. He has no trouble on that score - practical, pro-Europe, pro-common sense all round. Once selected, he was sent down to London for training and indocurination. The nervously rote-learned Walworth Road slogans are probably the He has learned the Westminster only thing wrong with him. We

plouded through The Five Pledges, but came unstuck after four, though later it came rushing back to him. He talked One Nation, and Blair's education, education, education but no spending pledges, absolutely none, except the ones he had

learned by heart.
The real Jeff Ennis springs to life when he talks about Barns-ley. Born and bred in Grimethorpe of a mining family, king of his patch, he knows every cracked paving stone on every estate. Boisterous, benign. straightforward - everyone knows him. Not trapped in the past, his eyes light up when he boasts of how Barnsley is the only town to win two City Challenges as well as other regeneration money. Three Korean factories have been enticed in and he'll do anything he can with public/private partnerships to bring jobs: 4,000 of these have been created so far. "Sounds good? Well, not so good when you know we need another 19.000. So why on earth does he want to give all this up and go to parliament? What is in it for him? Why abandon all this useful committed endeavour for life as a buck-bench nobody, alone in an alien place where no one listens to you and you influence nothing? A newcomer is lucky to get a desk. No one will want any thing from him but silent, mindless obedience.

What does he want to achieve there? "I want to be a good delegate. Barnsley people are the salt of the earth and they deserve the best. They have been alienated, excluded, abandoned. We've contributed to the national wealth all these years. paid for it with mining disasters and diseases. I want these people rewarded." Well, that will make a nice maiden speech, but what then?

Our corrupted political system eats up the lives of good people like Ennis, wastes their energies, drains blood out of the regions to squander it in the servinde of a mediaeval court. bowing low as humble subjects to the whips and the leader. One ex-councillor and school teacher, a good friend of Ennis's, said "Proportional representation, that's the only hope. Otherwise MPs are nothing. Labour will never win a second term unless they bring PR in, and MPs will never amount to a row of beans without it." I asked Ennis what he thought of PR. Stumped, because he hadn't learned that card, he said he was no expert and left it at that. obedience lesson well.

Hard life of the royal snappers

Diana might get a tough time from the paparazzi. But she holds her own. By Peter Popham

ll is quiet on the Chelsea Harbour front this morning, so it's a good moment for Mark Saundens, British paparazzo par excellence, to give me a tour of the battlefield where he and his pal Glenn Harvey have fought so hard and long for the greater glory of the yellow sheets of the world.

This is the Family Tree cafe, where the rigours of many a royal stake-out have been softened over a steaming capuccino. That's his large, new, lilaccoloured BMW parked outside, one of Mark's several quiet reminders of the juh's rewards - others being the holidays in places like Mauritius, a whole month spent recklessly doing nothing (a gamble duly rewarded when not one picture of the Princess appeared while they were away): and a nice three-bedroom house in Windsor, the town where. 10 years ago, on the stat) of the Slough and Windsor Express. Mark's fairy-tale hegan. There outside the cafe's window.

next to an ahandoned, crumbling warehouse are the grey inflated rub-ber roofs of the Chelsea Harbour Club's two indoor tennis courts. Diana has been coming here ever since her previous gym betrayed her by selling pictures of her working out ("making the man who took them more money than we've made in five years. Mark notes a little sourly).

The cityscape here makes Mark spit with indignation: "the obscene parallel of the richest of the rich at Chelsea Harbour with their Meres and Rollers. and the poorest of the poor in the council estate alongside it," he foams. It's noticeable how conspicuous success in something squalid like taking undercover photos tends to stimulate the social indignation gland. But he's right, this is a strange corner of town: Sasometers, ruined factories, out-andout wasteland. Victorian worker ternces and then, with the Harbour development, a sudden slice of Miamion Thames for a princess to steide in-The front line at the Harbour Club

has shifted little in the three years since Diana relinquished her police protection, giving the signal for battle to commence. It consists of the Harbour Cluh's car park, the roads that lead into it, and the walkway from the car park to the club's entrance. Most mornings at 8 o'clock sharp Diana arrives by car, parks, walks into the club, works out, makes up again, doesn't shower (the boys claim), goes back to the car, and drives home.

And the boys take her picture: from a window in an upstairs flat, perched on top of the cluh's perimeter wall, skulking in a parked car, or, with most success, from within a clump of bushes by the cluh's entrance.

Each time, the princess has eventually found them out. A sneak at the club told her of the upstairs flat from which they were snapping. "She stormed out of the club, crossed the road, and stood directly below the window," Mark writes in Dicing with Di, the paparazzi's tale which he has just published with Harvey. "We could hear her shouting, 'You cowards, I know you are in there."

"... Sheepishly I peered over the window ledge. Diana's angry face was staring up at me. Behind her a small group of children had gathered to another the fun watch the fun.

What are you doing?' she demanded.

'Nothing,' I replied." It was the same abject story when she realised she was being hosed down", as they put it, from within a large clump of rhodedendrons. Can you come here, please?"

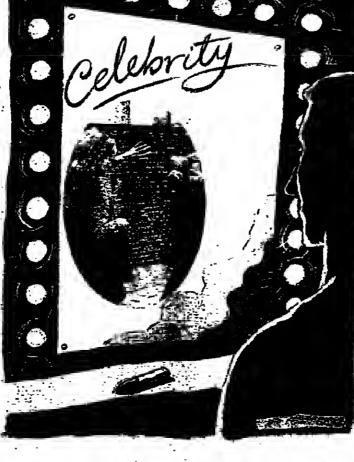
We stayed put. " J said, can you come here? I know

you re in there. Diana moved some hushes aside and, for one crazy moment, we honand, for one crazy moment, we honestly thought she was coming in...

You look pathetic, she said.

How long is this going on for?...

I don't know, said Mark. There's



Diana's frequent eruptions at the Saunders and Harvey finally decided paps led to her rapidly getting a new professional nickname, The Loon: "to be looned" meant to be confronted in the street by a raging Di. that A dispatch rider with a string of After enduring in acute embarrasment convictions for road rage offences, a numerous lectures from her - "exactly a lot of demand for pictures at the like being told off by the dinner lady

1.78

that the best, if not the most dignified, approach was simply to run away.

Martin Stenning wasn't to know thin, gawky, somewhat gauche looking figure, Stenning blundered into partin the school playground," says Mark time papping after he kept spotting Di Publishing, £15.99.

on the streets of Kensington and Knightsbridge while he was out delivering documents. Equipped with a motorcycle, unlike the BMW-bound professionals, Stenning was able to nip through the truffic and keep close on the princess's tail. But it wasn't long before he learned how unwelcome his attentions were. And in Stunning's case, Diana took her looning to new extremes, on different occasions removing his ignition keys and his crash helmets to deter him (Stenning has published the pictures which prove it). And when the time came to ded an exemplary blow to the paps, it was new boy Stenning who got it in the neck, being served with an injunction. still in force, banning him from coming within 300 yards of the princess.

Stenning woke one day to find himself in the midst of his own 15 minutes of fame: branded a stalker and a weirdo. Early one morning he was lured out of his flat and beaten up by a thug, whose companion recorded the event on film.

Despite the difficult circumstances in which they work, the rhodedendrons and the looning, Saunders and Harvey's book is full of brilliant images of this extraordinary beauty, alongside others Diana would certainly sooner forget, such as the picture which fuelled the great cellulite controversy fremember that? Harvey's wife's beady eyes spotted it first). The book cruelly illustrates the desperate and hopeless desire of Diana's to have it both ways all the time: to be photographed at her radiant hest when it suits her. and 10 be tactfully overlooked the rest of the time.

It can't be done: whether she's scratching her nose, bursting into tears, scowling up into the trees or sprinting for the exit, the camera loves her to bits. She's got a life sentence.

Dicing with Di. The Amazing Advennures of Britain's Royal Chasers', Mark Saunders and Glenn Harvey, Blake



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Tiny Tim

Laughter was in short supply when Tiny Tim made his une pected entry into the rock 'n' roll circus. In an age when Led Zep-pelin and Jimi Hendrix were deemed all-powerful, nothing could be more incongruous than the speciacle of this gawky giant playing the ukulele and singing "Tiptoe Through the Tulips With Me" in a high, camp falsetto.

Yet rock fans were among his keenest supporters when the novelty artist first elbowed his way on stage and began singing Twenties novelty songs. His ap-pearance at the 1970 Isle of Wight Festival alongside the Who and Miles Davis seemed in epitomise the broad tastes of

an open-minded generation.
But the jest could only be sustained for a few magical moments. Then Tiny Tim's hlows for the counter-culture began to beat upon less receptive ears. Even while the singer was serenading a mass audience at the height of his fame, a great length of toilet paper, signify-ing protest and boredom, began to circulate amonst the Isle of (which had been a Number One hit for one Nick Lucas Wight hordes, and booing

began to overcome the cheers. Tiny Tim would spend the rest of his life trying to repeat the success of his only hit record, and in recent years he had begun to find a new audience among the retro-rock Second Album (1969) and For crowd. He was at heart a All My Friends (1969). cabaret artist, whose appeal lay in the startling contrast he provided during interludes of comic relief. It could not be said he provided a richly satisfying vein of musical innovation, but he was a much-loved figure.

Tiny Tim came to fame in the Greenwich Village clubs and cales of the early Sixties. A native New Yorker, he was born Herbert Khaury in 1930 and was hrought up listening to his parents' records of show tunes and ballads. (Some put his hirthdate as 1925, but he was always neglectful about origins.) He began singing his own approximation of the Twenties crooning style he heard as a child and took the stage name Larry Love. The 6ft lin giant with the straggly hair and effete manner was renamed Tiny Tim in 1960 by an agent, who had previously worked with

midget acts.
Tiny Tim's hreakthrough came when he made an appearance in the film You Are What You Eat. This led to a regular spot on the cult television comedy show Rowan and Martin's Laugh In. A mass audience warmed to the eccentric character and in 1968 he scored a Top Twenty US hit single with his manic version of Tiptoe Through the Tulips With Me"

in 1929). Tiny became an overnight sensation and international celebrity. He recorded several albums including God Bless

At the height of his fame in 1969 and amidst much specu-lation about his sexuality, he married a much younger woman, Vicki Budinger, whom he dubbed "Miss Vicki". The wedding took place "live" on

Johnny Carson's The Tonight Show and attracted an audience of 40 million viewers. Although many predicted Tiny Tim's career would be short-lived, in fact he managed to sustain himself with a series of appearances at night-clubs, festivals and concerts for many years.

Tiny Tim was under no illusion about the fickle nature of his audience. "In this husiness, you're as good as your last hit record and mine was 26 years ago," he said in a recent interview. In 1989 he tried to revive his recording career with a ver-sion of AC/DC's "Highway to

"As long as you're recording and they pay the fee, it's like a lottery ticket," he said. "You

never stop trying."
Tiny Tim had a daughter, Tulip Victoria, with Miss Vicki, hut they were later divorced. There was a second marriage, then he married his third wife Sne Gardger - "Miss Sue" - in 1993 and they moved to Min-

The singer had been ill for some time, suffering from heart failure and diabetes, when he collapsed and fell off stage at a ukulele festival in Massachusetts in September. He was in hospital for 11 days and said later. "If I live another 10 years, it's a miracle. Five years, it's even more of a miracle."

Chris Welch

Herbert Khaury ("Tiny Tim"), entertainer and musician: born New York 12 April 1930; three times married (one daughter); died Minneapolis 30 November



Tiptoe through the tulips with me': Tiny Tim with the caharet actress Carol Channing

Patience Edney

Patience Edney, who died in Madrid three weeks ago at the age of 85, was one of a handful of women amongst the 700 or so veterans of the International Brigades who had returned to Spain at the invitation of various groups of Brigade sympathisers, who wished to pay homage to them in the 60th anniversary year of the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. On the previous evening she had been at a concert given in their honour and attended by some 35,000 citizens of

Patience Darton, as she was hefore her marriage to another volunteer, Eric Edney, hy whom she had a son Robert (who was with her midwife at University College when she died), was the daugh- Hospital, London, when the

Spanish Civil War hroke out in In a BBC radio programme,

recounting participants' experiences, she told how she was "hidden" down the steps of St George's Church, Bloomsbury, on her way to offer her services to Republican Spain. (And, by a stronge coincidence, another contributor was Miles Tomalin, father of the journalist Nick, who also died when he made a return journey to the hattlefields on the Ebro some years

She stayed on until the final battle at Gandesa, working in a make-shift hospital in a cave, until the day the International Brigades were withdrawn on 23 September 1938 (the day of the final hattle in which my own

father, George Green, died). She was one of those who heard La Pasionaria declare "You are history, you will return", when she hid them farewell on the Playa Catalunya in Barcelona.

On her return to England Patience Darton joined the Communist Party and devoted her energies and skills aiding the health care of the Czech refugees who were fleeing the Nazi occupation of their country. At the outbreak of the Second World War she joined a company whose research was part of the war effort, and afterwards she worked for United Nations Relief and also for John Platts-Mills MP.

After her marriage to Eric Edney was an active particiEdney (then a Communist Parpant in various left-wing and November 1996.

ty official) she went to work in the People's Republic of China for a hrief period.

Patience Edney was a tall, strikingly handsome woman with a voice and diction that nas in strong contrast to that common among her comrades and fellow volunteers, who were mostly drawn from the industrial working classes. She was a the trade union leader and great friend of my mother. Nan spokesmen for pensioners. Green, who was secretary to Dr Len Chrome, who supervised the British Battalion's field hosand it was through Nan that she return. had been found work in China, when Nan was working for the Foreign Languages Publishing House in Peking.

in Camden, north London, where she had been a long-time resident since her days at UCH. and most recently when a memorial plaque was put up in the Town Hall in March 1995. Edney was one of the speakers on this occasion, along with her fellow volunteer Jack Jones

peace-orientated movements

He too, along with Edney returned to Spain at the beginning of November, fulfilling pital up until their withdrawal, La Pasionaria's prophecy of

> Martin Green Patience Darton, rause; born 27 August 1911; márried 1955 Éric Edney (one son); died Madrid 6

The Rev Professor Huw Parri Owen

1983, was a distinguished theologian and writer. Although he remained committed throughout his career to theological views that many would now regard as traditional and conservative, he was a much-respected figure who was appreciated for the clarity and lucidity of his thought as this found expression in both his writing and his

teaching.
Owen was born in Cardiff in 1926 and received his secondary education at Cardiff High School. He read Classics and Theology at Jesus College, Oxford. He was ordained in 1949 into the ministry of the Pres-byterian Church of Wales and almost immediately was ap-pointed to the staff of the Church's Theological College at Aberystwyth. However, not long thereafter, he was ap-pointed Lecturer in New Testament Studies at the University College of Wales in Bangor, and it was there, in 1957, that he published his first book. Revelation and Existence, an impor-tant study of the theology nf Rudolf Bultmann. It was symp-tomatic of the direction his career was to take that this book was concerned with the. more theological side of New Testament Studies.

In 1962, as a result of the influence of Professor H.D. Lewis who had held a chair in Bangor but was by then Professor of History and Philosophy of Religion at King's College London, Owen came to King's as Lecturer in Philosophy of Religion. and within a year he was promnted to the position of Reader. But although his post was in the Philosophy of Religion, he was as much, if not more, concerned with theological issues, and it was at that time that he began what was to be a lifelong concern with the defence of traditional theistic belief. This concern found expression in a distinguished series of publications which included The Moral Argument for Christian Theism (1965), The Christian Knowledge of God (1969 - perhaps his best book), Concepts of Deity (1971), and Christian Theism: a study in

its basic principles (1984). In 1971 Owen's academic career underwent a further change when he was appointed to the chair of Christian Doctrine at King's College. The appointment was perhaps hardly surprising in view of the nature of his intellectual concerns, but it was cutirely typical of him that

he had to be persuaded by H.D. Lewis to allow his name Christian Doctrine at King's H.D. Lewis to allow his name College London from 1971 ro to go forward. The fact that he was capable of holding posts in three different academic disciplines is a reflection of the range of his interests and of his intellectual abilities.

As a lecturer Owen made few concessions to his audience, but he was much appreciated by his students, in Wales and in London, for the clarity of his presentation. He was a conscientious colleague, but he clearly hated university administration, and, despite the fact that he taught at King's for over 20 years, he never enjoyed being in London. He much preferred Cardiff, where he continued to live for most of the time; and in 1983, while still only 56, he took advantage of one of the schemes for early retirement and vacated his chair.

Huny Parri Oiven was an in tensely private person. He could be a very congenial and amusing companion, but few people



friends found that they hardly knew him. He was undoubtedly much more relaxed in Wales, where he was probably also more appreciated, and he remained throughout his life at-tached to Wales and to the Presbyterian Church, of which he had been an elder as well as a minister. He was a gifted musician himself and much enioved listening to music, and one of his greatest pleasures was attending concerts in St David's Hall, He owed a great deal to Andrey Wyatt, a friend of long standing, who looked after him particularly in the final years of

The Constitution

How Parri Owen, theologian and minister of the church: born Cardiff 30 December 1926; ordained 1949; Professor of Christian Doctrine, King's College London 1971-83; died Cardiff 26 October 1996.

Professor Roy Kantorowich

Roy Kantorowich made an outstanding contribution to the development of professional education for town and country planning. Coming to Britain in 1961, with wide experience of practising architecture and planning in South Africa and Israel. he played a pivotal role in the reorganisation and expansion of planning education to match new expectations and aspirations

for the UK planning system. Kantorowich was born in Johannesburg in 1916 and trained there first as an architect. His equal enthusiasm for town planning led to postgraduate research at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Columbia University from 1939 to 1941, and then to professional qualification through the external examinations of the tute, whilst gaining experience by working on a new town planning project, for Vanderhijl Park New Town in 1942-45. His papers scooped all the prizes available to the institute's examination candidates.

A professional career of distinction followed in South Africa in both his chosen fields. His authority in architecture practice was marked by buildings which earned success in open competitions, including the Bronze Medal Award from the Cape Province Institute of Architects for the Sea Point Telephone Exchange, completed in 1961. He was equally active in town planning, where his work included the design of the Achkelon New Town in Israel (1950-56) and important city centre planning schemes for Cape Town, Pretoria, Port Eliz-

ter of a religious books pub-

lisher, with Darton, Longman

& Todd, and had become a

abeth and Durban. He was already involved in planning education as an External Examiner and his term as President of the South African Institute of Town and Region-British Town Planning Insti- al Planning in 1960 gave further focus to his concern for a sound educational foundation for

practice In 1961 came the invitation to accept the chair of Town and Country Planning at Manchester University. Kantorowich

and leader of his university department - staunch in defence of principle, incisive in dehate, quick to share enthusiasms, always looking to stimulate enquiry and to found action on rationale and precision of thought. But his new appointment was to lead to yet wider application of his skills.

He arrived in the UK to find lively echoes of his own concerns in a fiercely contested dehate about the nature of planning as a discipline, the format of the planning system and the future of the profession. Entering the debate with vigour, he was influential in shaping its outcome for planning education. It had become clear that an educational system founded in gn-based "master planning" could no longer cope with the need for land-use planning ro be informed by social science research techniques, to be responsible to the public, and to incorporate environmental protection, ecological and

Elected to the chair of the Royal Town Planning Institute's Education Committee in 1965 with a mandate for the changes he sought, Kantorowich took the lead in a fundamental recasting of the profession's external examination syllabus to provide training with the scope and focus to meet the evolving needs of contemporary practice. The new syllabus influenced the development and content of all

An expanding planning sys-tem also had need for more trained personnel. Kantorowich urged that rapid expansion of full-time undergraduate planning courses was essential to meet the shortfall. His role in the 1970s as chairman of the vi idating Town Planning Panel the Council for National Aca demic Awards, during a period of rapid course development in the polytechnics, was crucial to the achievement of this aim. Under his leadership the size of the Planning School at Manchester more than doubled. It was typical of his hands-on ap-

types of training course.

fession; and through membership of the Planning Committee



Hands-on approach: the University of Menchester Architecture and Planning Building, designed by Kantorowich and completed in 1970

proach that Kantorowich designed the new building that accommodated this expansion. Whilst a mighty champion for undergraduate provision, he also believed that it was essential to maintain and promote postgraduate entry to the pro-

of the Social Science Research .Council he was able to secure funding for necessary postgraduate training awards and research. Achievement in academic planning, as in practice, again meant that his skills were in international demand as Unesco drew on his expertise as a consultant on overseas planning

Roy Kantorowich's career planning and architecture should build for the future with a cultured quality of urban

environment in mind. David Robinson Roy Herman Kantorowich, ar-

chitect and town planner: born

Johannesburg 24 November exemplified his conviction that . 1916; Professor of Town and Country Planning, Manchester University 1961-84 (Emeritus). Dean of the Faculty of Arts 1975-76, Director of the Walfson Design Unit 1981-84; married 1943 Nella Wisserna (one son. two daughters); died Manchester 23 November 1996.

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

DEATHS

PARTINGTON: Lt Partington, Sebastian, Light Dragoons, tragically, in an accident, on 24 November. A very social and mach-loved son of Jo and Peter, brother of Sakia and Jerome, and beloved of Julie, Funeral service on Thursday 5 December. 2pm. at Rochester Cathedral, arranged by Hanbrook and Johns, Beaconstield Ave, Dover, Kent CTIS 2LF. POLLAK: Anna. OBE, aged 84, on 28 November, former mezzo-soprano, at Sodler's Wells Opera. Will be sadly missed by ber many friends. Private cremation. No flowers but donations, if desired, to the Musicians' Benevolent Fund, 16 Ogle Street, London WIP 7LC, or to Sadler's Wells Appeal Fund Ltd, of Rosebery Avenue. London ECTR 4TN.

Amrouncements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS IBirths, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, in the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, belephoned to 0171-293 2011 or faced to 0171-293 2011 or faced to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 2650 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette amountements must CHAIRE Gazetie amnuncements must be submitted in writing (or fixed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Please include a daytime telephone

Birthdays Sir Maurice Bathurst QC, interna-tional judge, 83; Sir Frederic Beanett

er MP, 78; Mr Timothy Boswell MP, Parliamentary Secretary, Min-istry of Agriculture, Fisheries and istry of Agnicillure, Fisheries and Food, 54; The Hon Nigel Calder, science writer, 65; Professor Sir Alan Cook, former Master, Selwyn College, Cambridge, 74; Sir Frank Cooper, chairman, High Integrity Systems Ltd and former senior civil servant, 74; Sir David Davies, former chairman Weish Demography Agency man, Welsh Development Agency, 87; Mr Mike England, football man-ager, 54; Mr David Green, director of Voluntary Service Overseas, 48; Mr Michael Green, chairman, Carlion Communications and ITN, 49; General Alexander Haig, former US Secretary of State, 72; Marshal of the RAF Sir Peter Harding, former Chief of the Defence Staff, 63; Miss derseo Consulting, 48; Dr Hrian Lang, chief executive and deputy chairman, British Library, 51; Mr Roy Moss, vice-chairman, Allied Domecq, 67; Dame Winifred Prentice, former

e publication of a estalogue of the chair pactures, to Dake of Effectively water North Literack, Naid-beard Office Pork, Maidenhoud, Berkahre. The decem Hayal attends the Ofronger Banquet at the pide Muneton, Loudon W.T. The Dake of Guaran-

President, Royal College of Nursing.

86; Miss Monica Seles, tennis play-er, 23; Mr Alex Smith, MEP, 53.

conservation perspectives.

Anniversaries

Births: Sir John (Giovanni Battista)
Barbirolli, conductor, 1899; Maria
Anna Cecilia Sofia Callas, operatic
soprano, 1923. Deaths: Gerardus
Mercator (Gerhard Kaufmann), cartographer, 1594; Philip Arthur
Larkin, poet, 1885, On this day: King
Camp Gillette patented the first
safety razor, 1901. Today is the Feast
Day of St Bibiana or Viviana, St
Chromatius of Aquilea, St Nomnus
and St Silvanus of Coustantinople. Births: Sir John (Giovanni Battista

Dame Diana Reader Harris

A Memorial Service for Dame Di-ana Reader Harris will be held in Sherbonne Abbey, Dorset, on Friday 31 January 1997 at 2.30pm, with a reon January 1997 at 2.30pm, with a re-ception afterwards. Those planning to attend are requested to send a card to: The Secretary, Sherborne School for Girls, Sherborne, Dorser DT9 3QN. Telephone 01935 812245. Fax 01935 814973.

Changing of the Guard The Heasthold Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Late Guard or Heave Guards, 11,000 for Justiline The Royal Regiment of Wales meets the Queen's Gental, at Butchingtons, Palers, 11. Mara. The following notes of judgments were prepared by the reporters of the All England Law

Crime R v Rollison, CA (Cr Div) (Hetchis Li, Rougier J. Judge Van de Werff) Li

Oct 1996. An application by the prosecurion in a criminal trial, to have the defendant restrained by handcuffs, should be heard Claudius Algar (Registrar of Criminal

CPS | for the Crown. Employment Blackstone Franks Investment Management Ltd v Robertson; EAT (Hol-land J. Mrs B.E. Sutherland, Ms B.

Appeals) for the appellant, Arthony Pitts

Switzer1 10 Oct 1996. The commissions which a financial consultant was entitled to receive, under his contract with a financial services company to provide services to it consisting mainly of obtaining clients to invest money through ts products, constituted twager within the meaning of s 7(1) of the Wages Act 1986. The commissions were readily to be insultant in his capacity as a worker. The company's failure to pay them could therefore

found a claim under the Act for. wrongful deduction of wages. Robin Howard Chile & Co) for the company, Mr Robertson in person. Insurance

Hampions Residential Ltd v Field: QBO (Comm Ct. (Longmore J) 7 Nov

The assured a firm of chartered surveyors, were not entitled to be indemnified by their professional indemnity insurers. Under the policy, the assured-was obliged to notify the insurers of any circumstances which might give rise to a claim and also of the discovery of dishonesty or fraud by an emplovee whether giving rise to a claim or not. Although the assured gave notice of a claim resulting from an employee's montgame fronds on a majority and the campaign as a montgame fronds on a majority and the campaign as a montgame fronds on a majority and the campaign as a montgame fronds on a majority and the campaign as a montgame fronds on a majority and the campaign as a montgament of the campaign as a montgament of the campaign and the campaign are the campaign as a montgament of the campaign and the campaign are the camp mortgage frauds on a specified pared to references to qualities building society, they did not give notice of the employee's might be put. The campaign dishonesty or fraud in relation was not capable of influencing

CASE SUMMARIES 2 December 1996

> entitled to an indemnity for claims made by other lending institutions. Christopher Symons QC. Rory Phillips (Evershells) for the assured; Colin Edelman QC (Cameron Markby Hewitt) for

The assured was therefore not

Meat and Livestock Commission Manchester Wholesale Meat & Poulby Market Ltd; QBD (Moses J) 31 Oct

An advertising campaign arranged by the MLC to promote red meat did not have the effect of quantitative restrictions on imports from other EU states and was not in breach of -art 30 of the EC Treaty. Although the British meat logo of meat and uses to which it dentified as and when due and plainly to be paid to the conbefore the policy had expired. in substitution for that from

other member states, nor did it discourage the purchase of

meat from them. David Vaughan QC, Peter Cranfield (Sephenson Harwood) for the plaintiff, Kenneth Parker QC, Alistair Lindsay (Ellion & Co, Manchesier) for the

Mortgage State Book of India v Sood & ors; CA

(Hirst, Peter Gibson, Pill LIJ) 34 Oct Where a house held on trust for sale was mortgaged to secure past and future advances, the fact that no money was ad-vanced at that time did not permit an occupying beneficiary (resisting a subsequent pos-session action by the unpaid mortgagee) to claim an over-riding interest having priority over the mortgage under s 70(1)(g) of the Land Registra-tion Act 1925. In such a case, and on the true construction of s 2(1)(ii) of the Law of Property Act 1925, the overreaching of beneficial interests did not depend on compliance with

statutory requirements for the

receipt by trustees of capital

Grant Crawford (Royds Treadwell) for the bank; Peter Havey (Lewis & Dick, on) and Andrew Williams (Dickinson Parker Hill & Son, Ormskirk) for the

sented beneficiaries. Persecution

R v humigration Appeal Tribun p Shake QBD (Sedley J) 25 Oct 1996. A woman from Pakistan who had been driven from her home by a violent husband, who on arrival in the UK found that she was pregnant, and who had a credible fear that if she returned home she would be accused by her husband of conceiving the child adulterously, exposing her to the likelihood of being stoned to death under Islamic Sharia law, was capable of being a member of a particular so-cial group with a well-founded fear of persecution within the meaning of art 1(A) of the Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees (1951, Canad 9171; 1967, Canad 3906) so as to entitled her to be treated as a refugee who should be offered asylum.

Frances Webber (Malik Gould Associate for the applicant; Mark Shaw (Treasur) Solicitor) for the Home Secretary

Leisure interests dominate the latest battle of the beerage

The because makes a strong bid to dominate this week's profit proceedings. Scottish & New-NatWest Securities are looking through thick and thin. But at the top of the hotel market, before the recession ravaged the eastle and Bass, respectively for a 22 per cent gain to £193m numbers one and two in the pecking order, and three regional groups are on the reporting schedule; so, for good rather than beer could create lief in the City that Scottish feels measure, is former brewer Grand Metropolitan.

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The brewing pack has been led by Scottish since the Government controversially approved its takeover of Courage, lifting its market share to more than 30 per cent and dislodging Bass in the process.

Bass is attempting to re-capture its lead by buying capture its lead by buying demonstrated its willingness to Carlsberg-Tetley, struggling in third place. Scottish and a host sold its Thistle Hotels chain to of other interested parties are protesting and the bid could

the major interest. The Scottish holiday operations, Center Parcs, with 14 holiday villages, and Pontin's, with 19 sites, are thought to have had a disappointing time, reviving specu-lation that it could well abandon the chore of catering for holidaymakers.

The group has in the past the then Mount Charlotte In- iday centres and chalet hotels. vestments, which recently reface a lengthy Monopolies and turned to the stock market as £665m (£599m) are expected Mergers Commission inquiry. Thistle Hotels.

industry, it unloaded for a then breathtaking £645m.

So is Center Parcs for the For once, however, leisure chop? There is a growing beleisure camps are not what they were and would welcome a chance to sell. However, if it did sell it is unlikely to repeat its remarkable Thistle success.

The guess is that leisure profits have fallen by a disap-pointing 9 per cent in the half year, Center Parcs, with most of its outlets on the Continent, is facing fierce competition and appears to be going nowhere. Pontin's has 19 hol-

Bass, where year's figures of Mergers Commission inquiry.

But today Scottish will concentrate on its interim results.

Thistle Hotels.

It was a spectacular, totally leisure problems. Its hingo halls have been hit by the Na-



STOCK MARKET WEEK

DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

The Holiday Inn hotels off- hreweries for pubs - a move it shoot has had a buoyant time hul there are now fears growth



probably regretted, given the bitterness and controversy which has haunted its Inntre-Grand Met exchanged its preneur pubs chain. The food and wine and spirits giant has sought to distance itself from the pubs estate, where there is even now confusion about the ownership of large chunks of the Instrepreneur portfolio.

Merrill Lynch expects year's

profits on Thursday to come out at £964m, up from £912m. It believes it will at last top the £1bn mark this year - an achievement it has, with Guinness, been threatening to accomplish since 1992.

Met's case it has been a seemingly never-ending round of re-structuring and such setbacks as poor harvests in the US.

Other brewers reporting this week are Marston Thompson & Evershed, remembered for paying a fancy price for a small chain of bars, which should manage £14.5m (£13.5m); Wolverhampton & Dudley £42.6m (£40.2m) and new-

comer Belhaven Brewery. Two groups with recent takeover hids under their belts are also on this week's report-

Carlton Communications surprised the media industry when it scooped Westcountry Television, an unquoted business, from under the nose of United News & Media.

It could be argued the Carlton £85m splash was in a sense

HTV to 29.9 per cent, a company Carlton turned its back on. Year's profits are likely to be

£298m, up 18 per cent. Great Universal Stores had been expected to venture forth once Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale had got his feet under the chairman's desk. But its acquisition caught most observers

on the bop - with a flourish it

paid £1bn for Experian, one of the teading US suppliers of consumer credit. It was an audacious shot, in one hit throwing off GUS' reputation for being solid but unexciting. More deals are likely. Lord Wolfson must address mail order and could opt to extend

its operations (Sears' mail order side is rumoured to be for sale). There is, too, the group's relationship with Next where Lord Wolfson is also chairman.

the brink of membership of the the south of England. United a few million pounds down to hillionaires' club. In Grand responded by lifting its stake in £235m. Still, the dividend should be lifted to say, 5.4p.

Cash-rich General Electric Co is another likely to offer unexciting interim results. But it should score an increase from £402m to, perhaps, £415m. The occasion should, however, allow the new driving force, George Simpson (the ex-Lucas Industries man who took over from the redoubtable Lord Weinstock), a chance to explain his strategy.

Another reporting in what is a crowded week is Hanson. Suffering demerger scares, its year's figures are likely to be 11

per cent down at £1.17bn.
There are two important interim results - Siebe (£188.5m expected against £(44.2m) and Racal Electronics (£36m against £31.9m).

Another ctutch of utilities features ScottishPower (half-

V	wentrate on its interim results. With Courage in the barrel for the full six months, as opposed three months last year, prof-	created Thistle with loving care and had given the im-		9 9 9 5	accomplish since 1992. Both drink groups have run into a variety of problems – and costs – since they bordered on	United gaining an uninter-	A merger seems mevitable.	features ScottishPower (half- time profits of £176m against £127.7m) and Wessex Water (£77m up from £68.4m).
Made was a second of the secon	With Courage in the barrel for he full six months, as opposed of three months last year, prof- the full six months, as opposed of three months last year, prof- the full six months, as opposed of three months last year, prof- the full six months, as opposed of three months last year, prof- the full six months, as opposed of three months last year, prof- the full six months, as opposed of three months last year, prof- the full six months, as opposed of three months last year, prof- three months last year, year, last year, prof- three months last year, year, last year, year	Created Thistle with loving care and had given the impression it would stick with it it w	tional Lottery and the Coral bookmaking side must have felt the Franking Dettor impact. The Franking Dettor impact. The Franking Dettor impact. The State of t	Mark Value International Property of Property of State o	Both drink groups have rum mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino a variety of problems - and costs - since they bordered on Mino	defensive, intended to prevent United gaining an uninter-	A merger seems mervitable. Interim figures, however. could be disappointing. Perhaps Share Price Data Prices are insterling proport where stand. The prices are insterling proportion of the share prices divided by less year's continge per share prices divided by less year's continge per share prices divided by less year's continge per share prices divided by less year's condition of the share prices divided by less year's condition of the share prices divided by less year's condition of the share prices divided by less year's condition of the share prices divided by less year's condition of the share prices are limited by the stand of the prices are limited by the stand of the share o	time profits of £176m against £127.7m) and Wessex Water (£77m up from £68.4m). The yield is lest year's dividend, grossed up by ce. The price/semings (P/E) rabe is the share re, excluding exceptional items, as a Linisted Securities Market a Suspended lest Source: FT Information are prices by phone from Seaq, Simply dial inted next so each share. To access the latest one of the two-digit codes below. Letter 04 Privaticetion Issues 35 aport 05 Water Shares 39 aport 20 Electricity Shares 40 after 21 High Street Banks 41 his service. For a detailed description of The triological facility, phone £961 123 393.
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business & city

Morgan Grenfell to pay out compensation early

Banking Correspondent

Morgan Greofell expects to pay compensation to investors in its three scandal-hit European funds in January, much earlier than the Easter target date initially set by Imro, the in-

vestment regulator.
The news will be come as welin the nace top-performing funds before trading in them early September.

Morgan Grenfell is in negotiations with Imro and Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm hired by the regulator, to establish the basis of the compensation payments.

Devising the complex formula is set to be completed as soon as Christmas, clearing the way come relief to some 90,000 investors who had placed £1.4hn for the payments to investors early in the new year. A spokesman for Morgan was too early to say what the total amount of compensation

An Imro spokeswoman said the compensation exercise could not be completed until a formula had been agreed. This was an intricate task because accountants must establish the period of time over which compensation was due and the henchmark against which to measure performance.

Arthur Andersen is in the final stages of resolving issues

such as whether to use the per-formance record of the best Morgan Grenfell fund, the best performing fund in the European sector overall or an average of the sector.

The three funds - European Growth, European Capital Growth and Europa - were among the top performers in the European sector but are now languishing at the bottom of performance league tables. In the early days of the scan-dal, investors withdrew at least

£250m from the funds. That sum was in addition to the £180m cash injection made by Deutsche Bank, the German banking giant that owns Morgan Grenfell, to buy out the highly unusual investments made by Peter Young, the former fund

Mr Young had set up a web of shell companies to buy up large stakes in high technology firms across Europe and America. He is currently under in-vestigation by the Serious Fraud Office, which is working to es-tablish if he benefited personally from the investments.

His assets have been frozen and his passport confiscated but he has not been charged with any offence.

He started managing European Growth and European Capital Growth in 1994. While the funds were only sus; ended in September, evidence of unusual activity has been established dating hack to the summer of 1995. used to help determine the time frame over which compensation will be due.

Deutsche Bank, which has deep pockets and has pledged to compensate investors, does not yet know the size of the compensation bill, which some reports estimate at £200m.

Penalties are also expected to be levied by Imro. Morgan Grenfell is braced for a fine of at least £1m, Imro's largest ever, early in the new year.



fund manager Peter Young

Abbey to start round of home loan rises

Abbey National will today raise the cost of home loans by 0.25 per cent for its 1.6 million borrowers, sparking a generalised increase in mortgage interest rates by UK lenders.

The increase, which will push up the cost of a typical £50,000 mortgage by about £7 a month, is expected to be followed within days by most other lenders, including Halifax and Woolwich. The Abbey said yesterday its

decision was mainly prompted by the need to offer its 12 millioo savers a better deal. New borrowers will pay the

higher rate immediately, while existing ones will see their mortaverage of 0.25 per ceot oo 1

executive at Abbey National, said: "We wanted to increase rates, particularly for our savers, who outnumber borrowers by

gage interest rates reached lows ast seen in 1966. Abbey National pointed out that even after the rise, mortgage rates would be at their lowest for 25

It follows attempts by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to convince the City last week that despite his 1p cut in the basic tax rate, his Budget remained fiscally responsible.

However, some economists believe the latest bouse price increases are one of several factors likely to belp fuel a spending boom, potentially leading to higher inflation. Halifax is poised to announce

today that bouse prices rose a further 0.5 per cent in Novemgages rise from 18 December. ber, giving an overall 7.1 per. Rates for savers will rise by an cent rise in the past 12 months. A separate report by Bob Pannell, chief economist at the Charles Toner, deputy chief Council of Mortgage Lenders', said today that an increase in the number of owner-occupiers moving home, linked to firstabout seven to one and have market, meant the present relived in a low-interest-rate covery was likely to be durable.

The company's move seems said they would wait for the out-



Mortgage hitch for house hunters: But even after the next rise, rates will still be at their lowest for 25 years

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on 10 December, before making a decision oo mortgage interest

'One building society executive, who refused to be named, said yesterday: "Some of us felt that, having recently weathtime buyers coming on to the ered a rise in base rates to 6 per rates has also come from Nacent without putting up our variable rates, a increase in mort-: rates was very likely diliess Mr Clarke really pulled someset to bring to an end a 12month period in which mortmeeting between Mr Clarke and
get speech last week.

to take effect today, still leaves from competitors once its petitors are doing into account it at least 0.25 per cent cheapsavers receive a free shares when reaching our decision."

"I'm oot sure he really achieved that. Even so, we were planning to go some time after the regular meeting with the Bank of England. This has caught us on the hop and we will probably respond quite

Pressure on lenders to raise tionwide, which recently pushed up the cost of home loans to 6.74 per cent for the

er than its main competitors. But at the same time, Nation-wide also announced that it was increasing savings tates by a similar amount, making it vastly

vestment front. Halifax has some 2.5 millioo mortgage accounts, compared with 17 million savings accounts. The society's demutualisation, which is set for next rowers. The society's move, due nerable to customer-poaching have to take what our com-

handout and are no looger locked in to their accounts. David Gilchrist, group sec-retary at Halifax, said yesterday: more competitive on the m-

"Up to oow our position has been that we would wait for the meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor before making a decision. We will oow be keeping our rates under

A spokesman for Woolwich

Profit-linked pay

'fails to motivate'

Firms reveal ignorance of disabled rights

and Nic Cicutti

Four in 10 employers have never heard of the Disability Discrimination Act. which comes into force today and which could lead to widespread itigation against companies.

Research conducted among more than 1,200 organisations by the non-aligned Institute of Employment Studies shows widespread ignorance of the law.

Charities representing the disabled believe businesses are letting themselves in for court action from prospective employees who have been rejected for jobs and current employees who believe they have suffered discrimination.

The IES report comes as a separate study by Unum, a US insurer, reveals that employers may face up to 3,000 industrial tribunal claims from disabled staff in the next 12 months.

Uoder the statute, workers can take action through the industrial tribunal system if they believe they have been subject to less favourable treatment: if they consider employers have failed to make "reasonable adjustments" for them, or if they think they have been victimised. The Act applies to all employers with 20 or more workers. The remedies open to the

tribunals are similar to those nificant implications." available in cases involving race though the disabled will have no statutory commissioo to back

The Royal National Institute for the Blind found in a on disabled applicants. Some 43 survey that more than half of per cent of respondents in the employers would not hire any-one who had "difficulty in see-law did not go far enough. ing". The Institute argues that such organisations could face definition of disabled employ-

Because the disabled are not

allowed legal aid to present their cases, some of Britain's top employment lawyers are prepared to waive their fees to take "strategic cases".

David Royle, director of marketing at Unum, said: "We believe the Disability Discrimmation Act will catch many of the UK's employers off-guard Our own research shows that two out of five haven't even heard of the new legislation, let alone started preparing for it." Unum's prediction of the number of legal claims likely to

be faced by UK employers follows the introduction of similar laws in the US in 1992. In the first full year of operation, more than 15,000 lawsuits were launched against employers. More than half the claim?

were over allegedly unfair dismissal, with a further 28 per cent. linked to failures by employers to provide a reasonable workng environment.

However, two-thirds of all suggested workplace adjustments cost £300 or less.

In an interview with People Management magazine, Robin Lewis, an employment special ist at Bindman solicitors said: "It is in the interests of everybody. including employers; that the first cases that are brought should be good cases that affect large organisations and have sig-

The recruitment specialist cent of personnel managers in large British companies say the Act will discourage particularly small companies from taking

apensive

not prot

ees and whether stress-related illnesses would be included.

Lloyds bidders set for final fight

Magnus Grimond

The £650m three-way battle for Lloyds Chemists enters its final stage this week with the publication of the offer document from Gehe, one of the bidders. Under City takeover rules,

the German group has until tomorrow to issue the document to Lloyds shareholders, trig-gering the 60-day timetable within which the hid must be completed. If it runs anywhere near to the wire, the tussle for Lloyds will have been going on The offer document will

first indication from rival hid- be forced to raise their terms to

der UniChem of the level of in-terest its cash and shares offer Cebe to spin the bid timetable The Surrey-based wholesale

and retail chemists group will today announce the level of acceptances at the first closing date for its bid. But observers expect few takers at this early stage of the proceedings. Lloyds' shares on Friday

stood unchanged at 513.5p, well clear of both bids. UniChem's terms of 1.6 shares plus 92.6p in cash valued its target at just over 490p, which is 10p less than the 500p all-cash offer from Gebe. Most observers expect that

come hot on the heels of the one or both of the bidders will

has elicited from sharebolders. out as long as possible to put maximum pressure on Uni-Chem, which faces difficulties

if it wants to increase its offer. The group is already straining its balance sheet with the bid at this level. Gehe claims its average gearing could soar to 490 per cent if it is successful, giving UniChem little room to manoeuvre to raise the cash

element of its bid. But increasing the amount of paper could prove counter-productive if, as some believe, the market pushes down the share price to take account of the resulting earnings dilution.

UniChem launched its original bid on 18 January this year and was quickly trumped by a higher offer from Gehe, one of Europe's biggest drugs wholesalers. The German firm bas since binted that the original offer may be too high, given Lloyds' relatively poor

period Both bids were kicked into touch for over seven months af-

ter they were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which subsequently allowed both sides to renew their offers, subject to the sale of six or seven relatively minor whole-

Share ownership schemes and research recognise that PRP is terms of greater employee par-ticipation and understanding of performance in the intervening their firms' aims, according to a

new report, writes Nic Cicutti. Even where the value of such schemes was recognised by companies on an intellectual level, few of them communicated the benefits to staff before implementation.

"Fewer still attempt to integrate financial participation into wider company philosopby or strategic process," says the report, sponsored by Bacon & Woodrow, the pay and benefits consultants.

The study, by Rachel Sloan and Niki Jackson, two MBA students at City University in London, comes after Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, announced plans in last week's Budget to phase out profit-related pay (PRP) within the next

four years.
The survey, carried out before
Mr Clarke's announcement, shows that about 60 per cent of companies in the FISE 100 share index will be affected by the abolition of PRP.

profit-related pay operated by a Government-backed fiddle the UK's top 100 companies and as long as it available most often fail to deliver benefits in do not see why they should not take advantage of it.". Not one company in the

survey gave motivation of employees as the reason for intro-ducing PRP. Ms Sloan said yesterday: "If the UK continues to encourage

work, companies need to pay more than lip service to the schemes they initiate. Employee share schemes also come in for some criticism by the authors. Approved profitsharing schemes were used by about 58 per cent of companies in the report, while save-as-you-

per cent of firms. Although many firms intro-duced such schemes because it was felt that employee ownership was a "good thing", no reason was given for such a belief.

Richard Greenhill, a partner in Bacon & Woodrow said: "Compared with most other countries, there is a lot of equity share participation in the UK. It is often the case that even though companies are doing the right thing, they are not The report says: "All of the the right thing, they are not companies interviewed in this aware of why they are doing it."

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Question mark over savings tax breaks

savings may not succeed in its aims nor be economically useful, according to research, writes Nic Cicutti. Existing measurements for as-

sessing savings rates are flawed. as is the usual notion of the relationship between saving and investment, Don Harding

argued that there is a correlation between high savings levels, per-

projects, and economic success, Mr Harding, an academic writing for New Economy, a journal by the Institute for Public Policy Research, points out that existing formulae treat spending on intangible assets

such as health as consumption. This means that countries with high investment in such things as health and education, appear to be under-saving," he says. Once such spending is included, many countries usually

The giving of tax breaks in mitting investments in capital classified in this category nrder to stimulate further projects, and economic success, emerge as heavy investors. emerge as heavy investors He argues that governments should not he actively encour-aging savings. "Schemes to encourage savings cost. Not only is tax actually forgone but they

> bureaucrats if they are to be designed, sold to the public and implemented effectively." James Banks, a programme director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies, adds that tax incentives, such as Tessas and personal

require the scarce attention of

equity plans, do not necessarily increase propensity to save.
Mr Banks points out that the take-up of Tessas traditionally grows substantially in the first quarter of each year, suggesting other accounts have been raided.

hold direct equities. "[This] means the proportion of funds being substituted from other holdings rather than coming from new saving may be large," Mr Banks concludes.

Half of all savings in PEPs also come from individuals who

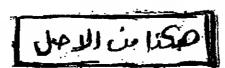
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Despite the Budget dodges, base rates must rise

GAVYN DAVIES

The real nightmare for the next Chancellor is not that spending numbers have been artificially massaged down by Mr Clarke, but that there is no spare capacity left

in the economy

This year's Budget preparations saw the Treasury taking hold of its piggy bank, ings, this year's "cuts" in public spending have turning it upside down, and shaking it for all it was worth. On finding remarkably little inside, the Chancellor could (theoretically) have choseo to abandon his plans to reduce the basic rate of income tax by 1p, a measure which had clearly been pre-ordained

ever since the ink dried on the 1995 Budget. In any year other than this one, that is al-most certainly what he would have done. But in this pre-election year, even Mr Clarke, who has bravely stood up to almost everything the Right of his party has thrown at him over several years, decided that discretion was the better part of valour. The penny cut in the basic rate almost assumed the status of a "pre-Budget" measure, with everything else having to be built around that fixed point. Treasury officials would almost certainly have preferred a more contractionary Budget, but view the outcome as about the best that could have been obtained, given the political cir-cumstances of the Government.

Undoubtedly, they feel that the net tax cut would have been far larger under almost any Tory Chancellor other than Ken Clarke. Clearly so, but it is hard from the outside to avoid the suspicion that a large number of corners were cut in the preparation of the Red Book figures, all in the aid of presenting a tenable path for the PSBR while also "affording" that penny tax cut.

The baseline for public spending failed to decline conveniently this year because of a favourable surprise on inflation, as it had in the previous two years, and spending departments resolutely refused to give ground to the Treasury in the autumn spending cast the level of unemployment.

required a series of subterfuges of varying validity. Luckily, all of these have heeo spotted by the financial markets.

So why is the Budget less tough on domestic demand than it looks? The simplest reason is that the lion's share of the cut in the PSBR next year (£6bn out of the £7bn drop) is not caused by policy measures at all, but by the automatic effects of faster GDP growth on the budget deficit. This should not

really count as a policy tightening.

Then there are more detailed matters.

First, while the Red Book claims that privatisation receipts will fall from £4.5bn this year to £1.5bn in 1998/99, the truth is that other forms of additional asset sales are hidden away in the figures, of which the most important are the sale of defence married quarters, and the student loan book. For reasons that have never been clear to me, these

are scored as negative public spending within the control total, an accounting device which flatters the overall figure by around £2bn.

Second, the Treasury has for the first time ever this year decided to base its forecast for social security payments on a forecast of declining unemploy-ment, instead of simply assum-ing an unchanged johless total. Literally hundreds of times in recent years, ministers have piously stated that it has never been the

All of a sudden, it is – and what a happy co- | duced fraud. But why has this only become incidence that this change has been made in | apparent this year, following several years a year when it is possible to forecast a fall of 400,000 in the johless total, thus lopping another £2bn off the spending total.

Third, there is the closing of tax and spending loopholes, which is supposed to reduce the annual budget deficit by £3bn in three years time. The Treasury is bound to come under a great deal of pressure to justify this figure at the Commons select committee this week, since there must be a suspicion that this programme was plucked out of the air to make the Budget add up.

Treasury officials are apt to get quite indignant about this suggestion, arguing that the "spend-to-save" estimates are as soundly based as any others in the Red Book. There are, apparently, local pilot studies which "prove" that for every £1 spent on extra checking, the Government saves £8 in re-



in which the government was abusive towards Gordon Brown whenever he suggested that money could be saved by closing loop-holes? And why stop at saving £3hn, if this procedure has suddenly become so straightforward? The answer is presumably that there are diminishing returns to this type of effort, but then how can we possibly know where they will set in? All in all, it seems awfully

convenient that these savings have popped up just before an election. Probably this is all a mite too cynical. This Budget could have heen a whole lot worse, since it is certainly true that around two-thirds of this year's income tax cut has been offset by genuine tax increases elsewhere.

Furthermore, in one important aspect of preparing a Budget, the Treasury has been much more forthcoming than ever before. This concerns the crucial matter of how far

below capacity the economy is now working (answer: the Treasury reckons there is an output gap of 0-3 per ceot, with the Budger based on a central estimate of 1.5 per cent), and how fast the economy can grow on trend (answer, 2.5 per cent per annum). Combining these two figures with the rest of the Treasury's forecast, we can deduce that it expects output in return to trend at the end of 1998/99, at which point the PSBR should be dropping below 1 per cent of GDP.

If this calculation proves to be wrong, it is much more likely to be | Saclus.

because the estimate of the output gap is wrong, rather than because any of the details of the tax and spending programmes proves misleading.

The real nightmare for the next Chancellor is not that the spending numbers have been artificially massaged down by an outgoing Mr Clarke, but that there is no spare capacity left in the economy. If that turns out to be true, then everything is about to go wrong, and just the PSBR.

That is oow a matter to be addressed by monetary policy. The Bank of England will certainly have spotted the Treasury dudges. which means that the Governor is unlikely to share the Chancellor's view that the Budget has substantially reduced the need for further base rate rises.

As the graph shows, overall monetury conditions have been tightened sharply in recent months, even though base rates have increased by only a quarter point. But the reason for this is the 10 per cent rise in the exchange rate, which is included in the monetary conditions index shown in the graph.

Since neither the Bank nor the Treasury believes that sterling should be counted as an independent monetary instrument, this will not deter officials on both sides of town from pressing for more base rate rises soon. The Chancellar may not agree, but it is doubtful that he can hold out until the election all on his own. Good economics now requires higher interest rates, whatever good politics may imply.

Gavyn Davies is chief economist at Goldman



Most admired: Tesco, which under chairman Sir lan MacLaurin, has moved ahead of Sainsbury's

Eurotunnel is still the pits, say company directors

Jill Treamor

Eurotunnel, the deht-laden Channel Tunnel operator, is the least admired company oot of 260, oarrowly beating troubled store group Kwik Save into last place, according to a new survey.

This is the third year running Eurotunnel has languished in the bottom three rankings of the annual survey from Management Today, a specialist magazine. Even the progress on debt rescheduling earlier this year failed to push it higher up the

"Eurotunnel is joined in the doghouse by PR disaster-prone British Gas, which fell 38 places to 254th," Charles Skinner, editor of Management Today, said. The survey is based oo the views of the directors of the 10

largest quoted companies in 26 industrial sectors. Carried out in association

Business School, it asks the directors to rate the companies in their sector on the basis of nine key criteria - quality of management, financial soundness, value as long-term investment, capacity to innovate, quality of marketing, community and environmental re-

with Loughborough University

Tesco, the supermarket chain, tops the table as the most admired company, pushing Cadhury Schweppes from the pole positioo it achieved in 1995.

corporate assets,

"The UK's food retailers are the best in the world. Sainshury's has usually been ahead and Tesco has now broken free of the pack to establish itself as the market leader." Mr Skinner said, pointing to the success of Tesco's loyalty scheme.

In contrast, Kwik Save,

discounters such as Aldi, found itself the least admired company after Eurotunnel.

by Graeme Bowler, revealed a plunge in pre-tax profits from £125m to £2.8m. The chain has recently conducted an eightsponsibility, and the use of month review with Anderseo Consulting and concluded that it should retain its marketing position as a discount supermarket

while moving slightly up-market. The secood most admired company was Burford, a quoted property company run by Nigel Wray. Its shares have more than doubled since the begin-ning of 1995 and risen fivefold in the past four years.

Deals such as the acquisition of Trocadero, an underperforming leisure site in central London, have helped win it ad-

such as Tesco and Sainsbury's of the property market at the and the cheaper continental right time, Mr Skinner said.

He said Next, now third in the admiration stakes, had achieved one of the "greatest ever turn-Last month Kwik Save, run arounds" after its disaster status of the late 1980s.

Marks & Speocer, fourth most admired company by its peers, was once again top of the league table in the "free" vote allowed to directors to cast their opinions outside their sector. Year after year, the same

companies rank highly in the table - including M&S, Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Beecham and Reuters. For the first time, a clutch of

engineering companies rank highly, according to Mr Skinner. Spirax Sarco, a Cheltenhambased steam engineering specialist, enters the table for the first time at 9th, despite the slow-er-than-expected rise in first-half



caught between superstores miration in getting in and out profits it reported in September. Sir Alistair Murton, has languished in the bottom ratings

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Expensive regulations *do not protect investors'

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Regulations governing the sale of pensions and other long-term investments are costly, unnecessarily restrictive and fail to a right-wing think-tank, come protect consumers, according to a mid increasing debate about protect consumers, according to

a new report yesterday.

The cost of complying with rules enforced by the UK's financial services regulators may amount to 9 per cent of the industry's turnover, says the report hy David Simpson, a professor at Herint-Watt University. Mr Simpson argues that a new approach should be taken.

working with market forces instead of trying to oppose them. Instead of detailed reguintions that lay down procedures to be followed when dealing with customers, the information they get and what they can and cannot be sold, "vigorous com-petition" should be applied.

This, coupled with "effective Cenforcement of laws against fraud and unfair trading , would

be more effective in ensuring an end to poor selling practices.

Mr Simpson's comments. presented in a pamphlet for the Institute of Economic Affairs, the effectiveness of various financial services regulators.

They also follow a failure by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the leading City regulator, and the Personal investment Authority (PIA), the frontline watchdog, to resolve the pensions mis-selling scandal. A report prepared for the SIB two years ago said that up to 1.5 million people may have been mis-selling account pension.

mis-sold a personal pension. Last year, the PIA said it ex-pected the 350,000 most urgent cases to be dealt with by Christ-mas 1995. Since then barely a

few thousand individuals have been offered compensation.

The appareot failures of the existing system have led to calls from some Labour critics for a

highly centralised watchdog under statutory control, to oversee retail and wholesale markets.

Mr Simoson, an economic adviser to Standard Life, the giant Scottish mutual insurer, argues that instead of "paternalistic" investor protection, the aim of regulation should be to create a market in which consumers can deal with confidence.

Competition would promote integrity as companies recognise a reputation for integrity is a "competitive asset", he believes. "Companies would work within a code of conduct, enforceable at law, much of which can be de-

rived from existing laws against misrepresentation," he says.

There would be a single regulatory body for the marketing of all personal financial services which would monitor compliance with the code of conduct, promote comparative performance data and organise a programme of consumer financial planning awareness."

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EU backs piggyback wagons to move freight on to railways

port commissioner, will unveil today: new wagoo designed to promote the transport of freight on Britain's railways by giving trailers a "piggyback", writes III

The wagon, designed by Thrall, a Chicago-based company, operates by transporting the trailers - but not the cabsof articulated lorries.

The limited amount of freight currently transported by rail is moved in containers with no wheels attached. They are not immediately ready for the road when they have completed their

The new wagon, known as the EuroSpine. has taken more than three years to design and will begin operations in the Will begin operations in the Lord Berkeley said the forecasts new year between Glasgow and were cautious.

Neil Kinnock, European trans-Neil Kinnock, European trans-by English Welsh and Scottish

The project to design the wagoo has been run by Piggyback Consortium, made up of around 40 rail companies. The consortium has been working with four wagon designers for some years and Thrall was the first one to complete the project.

This is the first time it has ever been done in Britain," Lord Berkeley, chairman of the Piggybank Consortium, said yesterday.

He estimates that by 2003 approximately 400,000 trailers will be transported this way. 5 per cent of the freight transported by road between London and Disminsham, However and Birmingham. However,

The wagons will be most competitive with road haulage on long journeys and for the time being will only be able to carry low height but heavy loads, such as steel, because of the height of many of the bridges over Britain's rail

The hridges are approximately 6 inches too low. "We're pushing Railtrack to raise the bridges," said Lord Berkeley. The Piggyback Consortium is in discussions with Railtrack

over the cost of project of raismg the bridges between the Channel Tunnel and Glasgow, which Lord Berkeley argues will cost £100m and which Railtrack puts closer to £300m. European and government subsidies are available to fund

May the forces be with us?

Hugh Aldersley-Williams reports on a conference offering fresh clues to a grand unified theory

nent name such as Stephen Hawking going on a crash course in maths? Not often hut that's what has been happening for the past four weeks, and continues for the next two, at the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sci-

ences in Camhridge.

Professor Hawking is just one of a groupof physicists and mathematicians attending a conference with the daunting title of "Four-dimensional geometry and quantum field theory". But they aren't doing it out of casual interest. It could be a key step on the way to an idea which cluded Albert Einstein: a grand unified theory, joining the four forces - the strong and weak nuclear

forces, gravity and magnetism.

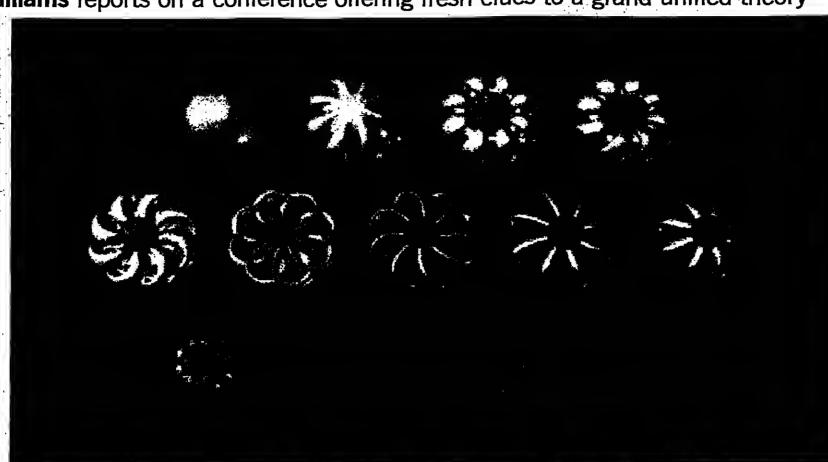
If a "GUT" (as it is known) does emerge from all this, then an important part will have been played by an Oxford mathematician who is almost unknown outside his field: Simon Donaldson.

For years mathematics, and especially topology - the study of the relations hetween forms - has tended to drift apart from physics and other sciences. But now they are coming together again, due in part to Professor Donaldson's work at Oxford's Mathematical Institute. In 1983, before he had even obtained his doctorate. Donaldson discovered certain "exotic" phenomena unique to four-dimensional space. Unusually for a pure mathematician, Donaldson made his discovery with the aid of ideas from theoretical physics.

He took equations from physics describing the behaviour of fundamental particles and applied them to mathematics, specif-ically in four-dimensional topology. "What he did was to use these ideas to establish a result in pure mathematics which was totally unexpected," says Sir Roger Penrose, the mathematician and author. "Unique among the dimensions, four is the only one with this property. The results are described below; but what has been almost

more interesting has been their effect. Donaldson's findings are now filtering through to cosmology and quantum theory - where four dimensions are significant, being the three of space, plus time. One way of describing gravity, for example, is to say that it produces local distortions in the geometry of space-time. If four-dimensional geometry is "badly behaved", as Donaldson's work indicates, it makes life more difficult for physicists - but also more

interesting. Recently, Nat Seiberg and Edward Witten of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton have kneaded Donaldson's equations into quantum physics, to produce a workable topological quantum field theory for four dimensions. In so doing, they showed that the idea of physical duality, which relates electricity and magnetism, could be extended to the weak and strong forces between fundamental particles.



Simulation of a sphere turning itself inside out; the gold exterior is replaced by the purple interior. Juggling topological ideas forms the key to Donaldson's work

Links like that are important in huilding towards a grand unified theory, which has evaded physicists and mathematicians for decades. But the Princeton result gave the impetus for the conference now in progress.

So what does its title, "Four-dimensional geometry and quantum field theory", mean? Quantum field theory seeks to explain the interrelations of fundamental particles. On occasion, experiment has borne out theories for which the mathematics was lacking. But Seiberg and Wit-ten have turned this process on its head with a mathematical "experiment" that seems to produce the right results. "We don't really know rigorously that it's OK to make these substitutions," says Donaldson. "In a sense, mathematics is the laboratory for these things."

The significance of this work to mathematics, and now to physics, has been duly recognised. Mathematics has no Nobel prize, but Donaldson has more than made up the difference - winning both its substitute, the Fields Medal, in 1986, and the Crafoord Prize of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1994. Witten won the Fields Medal the next time it was awarded,

m 1990. Mathematicians typically do their best work while young, and Donaldson, aged 39, calls himself (with characteristic modesty) "now rather a has-been".

"His work is as pure mathematical as you can get," says Sir Michael Atiyah, past president of the Royal Society, and Donaldson's research supervisor at the time of his hreakthrough, "But it draws on techniques in theoretical physics and it impinges hack on theoretical physics. [Sir Isaac] Newton's work impinged in the same way." Donaldson describes how it happened

with a sense of the history of his subject rarely found among experimental scientists. A century ago, Henri Poincaré launched the study of manifolds - curves and surfaces and their analogues in higher dimensions. Not long before, James Clerk Maxwell had revealed the symmetries describing the respective actions of magnetic and electric forces - in other words, their duality. Both areas have since seen much progress, but along largely separate tracks.

"My own work was really to hring together these two strands," says Donaldson. The conjecture that duality might be able to be extended to cover other forces

dates back 20 years. "But two years ago, this idea was resurrected and sonped up, and it is this that has led to dramatic advances in quantum field theory," he says. "One aspect has impinged on my work [in topology]. Other aspects have physical merit."

Surfaces and other manifolds may he grouped according to the properties that they share. In three dimensions, a sphere and a cube are topologically equivalent. A doughnut is different, because it has a ole in it.

a two- or a four-dimensional knot; and In five and higher dimensions, forms that

are otherwise equivalent are no longer interchangeable. Here, their surface quality - smooth like a sphere, or sharp like a cube - must be taken into account. Mathreduce topological puzzles in higher. dimensions to problems of (comparatively) simple algebra.

the quality of "smoothness" in fact matters more than in any other dimension. Not ical equivalence, based on counting holes, animated movies, can be found on the was suddenly invalid. Even in the simplest World Wide Web at http://geom.unn.edu/

cases, it turns out that there are infinitely many four-manifolds which - although equivalent according to classical topology - Donaldson revealed as being very different in terms of their smooth structure. What's more, there is no way of telling whether a smooth manifold will remain smooth or become "rough", or vice versa, under topological transformation. Fourmanifolds have a specialness, rather like knots in three dimensions. You can't have

in other dimensions. If it is any consolation, Donaldson, too, finds it counterintuitive that the fourdimensional picture should be more comematicians have nevertheless been able to plicated than not only the lower dimensions, but also the higher ones. Is it coincidental that this anomalous world seems to be our own? This question may But what about the intervening realm of not be on the agenda at the Newton Instifour dimensions? Donaldson showed that tute, but it is likely to he at the back of many of the minds meeting there.

only that, but the whole idea of topolog- An introduction to topological ideas, with

technoquest

Questions and answers provided by Science Line's Dial-a-Scientist on 0345 600444

Q Before the dinosaurs, it's thought there were mammal-like reptiles living on the Earth. What was so lian about them?

A Fossils of mammal-like reptiles which were around before the dinosaurs show that their teeth were differentiated like today's mammals. Today's reptiles have teeth that are all the same pointed shape. But the early mammal-like reptiles had teeth designed for different purposes - canines and incisors for rapping food apart, molars for granding it.

Q Why do babies often wake up at night?

A Our sleeping patterns change during our lives. Babies sleep for about 16 hours in 24 while twoyear-olds only sleep for nine to 12 hours. Older people can manage with only four to six hours a night. Babies also spend up to 50 per cent of their sleep in a REM state while adults spend only 25 per cent. Babies sleep in short bursts, maximising their chances of feeding by spreading their 16 hours of sleep throughout a 24-hour period. So even if kept awake all day, a baby is unlikely to sleep through the night because it's programmed

Q Do birds get earwax?

A Birds do not have an likely to

Q Why do we have freck-les on the backs of our hands but none en our fin-

A Freckles are clumps of skin cells with more melanin in them than other cells. Freckles tend to form when our skin is exposed to sunshine. As we walk we tend to hold our hands with our fingers curled inwards, shading them from the sunlight and so reducing the chance of freckles forming.

You can also visit the technoquest World Wide Web site at http://www.campus.bl.com/Campus-World/pub/ScienceNet

Questions for this column can be submitted by e-mail to ex17@cityscape.co.uk

theoretically ...

to investigate the terrain around the spacecraft, and the geology and elemental composition of rocks and soil there.

The relaunch of the Cluster project, lost when Ariane 5 blew up, is all systems go - providing national governments something? In the latest Nature, they report come up with the funding. On this page how a database of nearly 7 million organic last week we forecast that the European Space Agency would probably give numbers of carbon atoms are significantly. Phoenix the go-ahead. Now it needs the Department of Trade and Industry to stump up £7m over four years to refit the ... ity rule that is yet to be discovered?" experiments for launch. Watch this space. ask. Any answers?

No 3159. Monday 2 Decem

ACROSS

Fellow's fitting alarm (6)

Community walkway? (8)

German (9)
Tie round hospital notes

sound of it (4) Wild Australian orgy (10)

Watch what one is saying

(3-4) 16 Concealed behind empty

12 Metal particle, by the

Odd, isn't it how there are more organic compounds with an even number of carbon ... atoms than an odd number? That's the observation by a five-strong international team. And they ask: could that fact mean compounds shows that, in general, even more common than the adjacent odd numbers. "Could there be some underlying par-

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

Fret over line of tunnel (6)

21 Chap engaged in receiving 20

new money (7)

ue to girl (5)

now and then (28)

Left to occupy most of central African republic

Returned anything of val-

American set on going round anyway, isn't sober

10 Attractive suit accepted by 23 Scheduled event occurring 21

29 Moderates never go to

dard post (6)

Trouble slotting into stan-

DOWN It's possible, a belief's in error (8) One Greek character about ready to deliver adlib (9) Heard guy will get cure (4)

Row follows supporter's practical joke (3-4)
Not true – prisoner is tak-

Spoke of revolutionary

Number in pearl not exactiv unique (9) Enter and make an im-

Loss of pay involving quar-

ter of reservists (7)

French leader's hopeful

about Western offensive

Turn over key article by fa-

Attack working group (5)

Skirt comes from Assam

en in at once (10) Fabulous being rector in

many deserted (6) Great speller? (6) Deeply regret housing unit's fall in value (10)

charge (5)

pression (8)

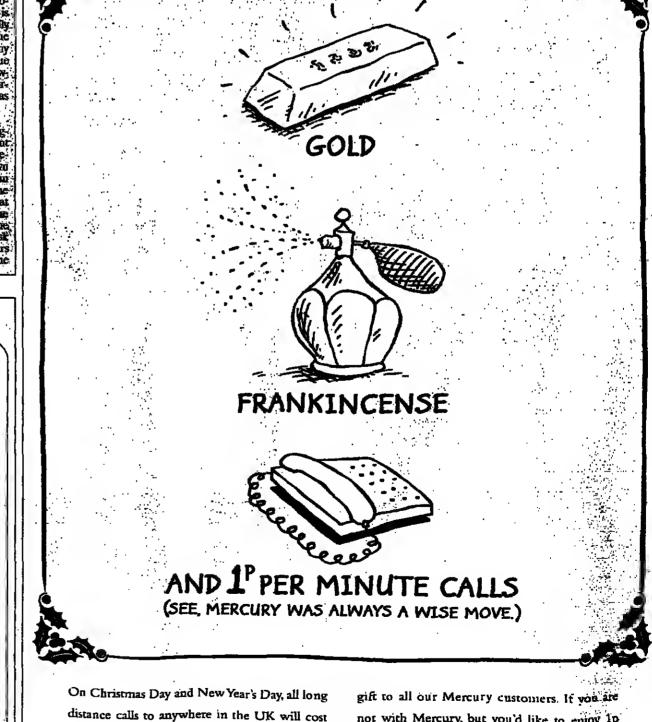
mous poet (6)

Don't get nervous - but anxiety seems. A mauve carnation can be yours. Florito have a genetic component. A report in gene, an Australian biotechnology tom.

NASA's second rocket to Mars, the last week's Science magazine found that pany, has spent \$A25 million (about £12).

Mars Pathfinder, should have taken off at levels of neuroticism correlated with two smillion) and a decade of research to pro-6.09 GMT this morning - assuming all different variants of a gene that encodes duce one, using genetic engineering. It is went well. This was the only time NASA a protein critically involved in controlling the first step towards a range of genetically had for a launch today, though there is a levels of the neurotransmitter, serotomin, engineered blue flowers - including the An investigation of 505 people found that long sought after this genetic variation accounted for about isolated the genetic responsible for blue mars on 4 July next year. It will investigate the Mars on 4 July next year. It will investigate the market of variation in ametry-related flower proportion in 1991. The new flower gate the Martian atmosphere and surface traits. A small difference, but the sort that earliest could mag away at the back of your usind.

> The Internet is bad for science, suggest two researchers at MIT They point out in Science that it tends to produce specialists who don't stray out of their own areas. "If information technology helps an algebraic topologist spend more time interacting with colleagues globally, what happens to his of her interactions with the computer scientist, the biologist or the graduate student down the hall?" they ask - pointing out that the theory dinosams were wiped out by a meleorite stilke came



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